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By convention, the LGICs comprise the excitatory, cation-selective, nicotinic acetylcholine [48, 236], 5-HT3 [20, 353], ionotropic glutamate [208, 338] and P2X receptors [158, 321] and the inhibitory, anion-selective, GABAA [25, 264] and glycine receptors [215, 373]. The nicotinic acetylcholine, 5-HT3, GABAA and glycine receptors (and an additional zinc-activated channel)

are pentameric structures and are frequently referred to as the Cys-loop receptors due to the presence of a defining loop of residues formed by a disulphide bond in the extracellular domain of their constituent subunits [238, 327]. However, the prokaryotic ancestors of these receptors contain no such loop and the term pentameric ligand-gated ion channel (pLGIC) is gaining acceptance in the literature [133]. The ionotropic glutamate and

P2X receptors are tetrameric and trimeric structures, respectively. Multiple genes encode the subunits of LGICs and the majority of these receptors are heteromultimers. Such combinational diversity results, within each class of LGIC, in a wide range of receptors with differing pharmacological and biophysical properties and varying patterns of expression within the nervous system and other tissues. The LGICs thus present attractive targets for

new therapeutic agents with improved discrimination between receptor isoforms and a reduced propensity for off-target effects. The development of novel, faster screening techniques for compounds acting on LGICs [88] will greatly aid in the development of such agents.

Family structure

5871 5-HT₃ receptors
5873 Acid-sensing (proton-gated) ion channels (ASICs)
5875 Epithelial sodium channels (ENaC)
5877 GABA_A receptors

5882 Glycine receptors
5885 Ionotropic glutamate receptors
5891 IP₃ receptor
5892 Nicotinic acetylcholine receptors

5896 P2X receptors
5898 Ryanodine receptor
5900 ZAC

5-HT₃ receptors

Ligand-gated ion channels → 5-HT₃ receptors

Overview: The 5-HT₃ receptor (**nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on 5-Hydroxytryptamine (serotonin) receptors [145]**) is a ligand-gated ion channel of the Cys-loop family that includes the zinc-activated channels, nicotinic acetylcholine, GABA_A and strychnine-sensitive glycine receptors. The receptor exists as a pentamer of 4TM subunits that form an intrinsic cation selective channel [20]. Five human 5-HT₃ receptor subunits have been cloned and homo-oligomeric assemblies of 5-HT₃A and hetero-oligomeric assemblies of 5-HT₃A and 5-HT₃B subunits have been characterised in detail. The 5-HT₃C (*HTR3C*, *Q8WXA8*), 5-HT₃D (*HTR3D*, *Q70Z44*) and 5-HT₃E (*HTR3E*, *A5X5Y0*) subunits [173, 256], like the 5-HT₃B subunit, do not form functional homomers, but are reported to assemble with the 5-HT₃A subunit to

influence its functional expression rather than pharmacological profile [136, 258, 352]. 5-HT₃A, -C, -D, and -E subunits also interact with the chaperone RIC-3 which predominantly enhances the surface expression of homomeric 5-HT₃A receptor [352]. The co-expression of 5-HT₃A and 5-HT₃C-E subunits has been demonstrated in human colon [170]. A recombinant hetero-oligomeric 5-HT₃AB receptor has been reported to contain two copies of the 5-HT₃A subunit and three copies of the 5-HT₃B subunit in the order B-B-A-B-A [23], but this is inconsistent with recent reports which show at least one A-A interface [207, 331]. The 5-HT₃B subunit imparts distinctive biophysical properties upon hetero-oligomeric 5-HT₃AB versus homo-oligomeric 5-HT₃A recombinant receptors [68, 86, 124, 160, 178, 277, 317], influences the potency of channel blockers, but generally has

only a modest effect upon the apparent affinity of agonists, or the affinity of antagonists ([36], but see [67, 71, 86]) which may be explained by the orthosteric binding site residing at an interface formed between 5-HT₃A subunits [207, 331]. However, 5-HT₃A and 5-HT₃AB receptors differ in their allosteric regulation by some general anaesthetic agents, small alcohols and indoles [146, 293, 314]. The potential diversity of 5-HT₃ receptors is increased by alternative splicing of the genes *HTR3A* and *E* [39, 139, 255, 257, 258]. In addition, the use of tissue-specific promoters driving expression from different transcriptional start sites has been reported for the *HTR3A*, *HTR3B*, *HTR3D* and *HTR3E* genes, which could result in 5-HT₃ subunits harbouring different N-termini [160, 255, 339]. To date, inclusion of the 5-HT₃A subunit appears imperative for 5-HT₃ receptor function.

Nomenclature	5-HT ₃ AB	5-HT ₃ A
Subunits	5-HT ₃ A, 5-HT ₃ B	5-HT ₃ A
Functional Characteristics	γ = 0.4–0.8 pS [+ 5-HT ₃ B, γ = 16 pS]; inwardly rectifying current [+ 5-HT ₃ B, rectification reduced]; n _H 2–3 [+ 5-HT ₃ B 1–2]; relative permeability to divalent cations reduced by co-expression of the 5-HT ₃ B subunit	γ = 0.4–0.8 pS [+ 5-HT ₃ B, γ = 16 pS]; inwardly rectifying current [+ 5-HT ₃ B, rectification reduced]; n _H 2–3 [+ 5-HT ₃ B 1–2]; relative permeability to divalent cations reduced by co-expression of the 5-HT ₃ B subunit

(continued)		
Nomenclature	5-HT ₃ AB	5-HT ₃ A
Selective agonists	–	<i>meta</i> -chlorphenylbiguanide (pEC ₅₀ 5.4–5.8) [24, 68, 196, 241, 242], 2-methyl-5-HT (pEC ₅₀ 5.5–5.6) [24, 68, 196, 241], SR57227A (pEC ₅₀ 5.4) [90] – Rat, 1-phenylbiguanide (pEC ₅₀ 4.1) [24]
Antagonists	–	vortioxetine (pK _i 8.4) [17], metoclopramide (pK _i 6–6.4) [36, 140]
Selective antagonists	–	palonosetron (pK _i 10.5) [248], alosetron (pK _i 9.5) [134], (<i>S</i>)-zacopride (pK _i 9) [36], granisetron (pK _i ~8.6–8.8) [140, 241], tropisetron (pK _i 8.5–8.8) [196, 241], ondansetron (pK _i ~7.8–8.3) [36, 140, 241]
Channel blockers	picrotoxinin (pIC ₅₀ 4.2) [326], bilobalide (pIC ₅₀ 2.5) [326], ginkgolide B (pIC ₅₀ 2.4) [326]	picrotoxinin (pIC ₅₀ 5) [325], TMB-8 (pIC ₅₀ 4.9) [320], diltiazem (pIC ₅₀ 4.7) [325], bilobalide (pIC ₅₀ 3.3) [325], ginkgolide B (pIC ₅₀ 3.1) [325]
Labelled ligands	–	[³ H]ramosetron (Antagonist) (pK _d 9.8) [241], [³ H]GR65630 (Antagonist) (pK _d 8.6–9.3) [134, 196], [³ H]granisetron (Antagonist) (pK _d 8.9) [36, 140], [³ H](<i>S</i>)-zacopride (Antagonist) (pK _d 8.7) [271], [³ H]LY278584 (Antagonist) (pK _d 8.5) [2]

Subunits

Nomenclature	5-HT ₃ A	5-HT ₃ B	5-HT ₃ C	5-HT ₃ D	5-HT ₃ E
HGNC, UniProt	HTR3A, P46098	HTR3B, O95264	HTR3C, Q8WXA8	HTR3D, Q70Z44	HTR3E, A5X5Y0
Functional Characteristics	γ = 0.4–0.8 pS [+ 5-HT ₃ B, γ = 16 pS]; inwardly rectifying current [+ 5-HT ₃ B, rectification reduced]; n _H 2–3 [+ 5-HT ₃ B 1–2]; relative permeability to divalent cations reduced by co-expression of the 5-HT ₃ B subunit	γ = 0.4–0.8 pS [+ 5-HT ₃ B, γ = 16 pS]; inwardly rectifying current [+ 5-HT ₃ B, rectification reduced]; n _H 2–3 [+ 5-HT ₃ B 1–2]; relative permeability to divalent cations reduced by co-expression of the 5-HT ₃ B subunit	–	–	–

Comments: Quantitative data in the table refer to homooligomeric assemblies of the human 5-HT₃A subunit, or the receptor native to human tissues. Significant changes introduced by co-expression of the 5-HT₃B subunit are indicated in parenthesis. Although not a selective antagonist, methadone displays multimodal and subunit-dependent antagonism of 5-HT₃ receptors [71]. Similarly, TMB-8, diltiazem, picrotoxin, bilobalide and ginkgolide B are not selective for 5-HT₃ recep-

tors (e.g.[326]). The anti-malarial drugs mefloquine and quinine exert a modestly more potent block of 5-HT₃A versus 5-HT₃AB receptor-mediated responses [328]. Known better as a partial agonist of nicotinic acetylcholine α4β2 receptors, varenicline is also an agonist of the 5-HT₃A receptor [213]. Human [24, 241], rat [151], mouse [224], guinea-pig [196] ferret [243] and canine [162] orthologues of the 5-HT₃A receptor subunit have been cloned that exhibit intraspecies variations in receptor pharmacology.

Notably, most ligands display significantly reduced affinities at the guinea-pig 5-HT₃ receptor in comparison with other species. In addition to the agents listed in the table, native and recombinant 5-HT₃ receptors are subject to allosteric modulation by extracellular divalent cations, alcohols, several general anaesthetics and 5-hydroxy- and halide-substituted indoles (see reviews [272, 329, 330, 353]).

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Acid-sensing (proton-gated) ion channels (ASICs)

Ligand-gated ion channels → Acid-sensing (proton-gated) ion channels (ASICs)

Overview: Acid-sensing ion channels (ASICs, **nomenclature as agreed by NC-IUPHAR [177]**) are members of a Na⁺ channel superfamily that includes the epithelial Na⁺ channel (ENaC), the FMRF-amide activated channel (FaNaC) of invertebrates, the degenerins (DEG) of *Caenorhabditis elegans*, channels in *Drosophila melanogaster* and ‘orphan’ channels that include BLINaC [294] and INaC [297]. ASIC subunits contain two TM domains and assemble as homo- or hetero-trimers [114, 159] to form proton-gated, voltage-insensitive, Na⁺ permeable, channels (reviewed in [119]). Splice variants of ASIC1 [provisionally termed ASIC1a (ASIC, ASIC α , BNaC2 α) [349], ASIC1b (ASIC β , BNaC2 β) [54] and ASIC1b2 (ASIC β 2) [340]; note that ASIC1a is also permeable to Ca²⁺] and ASIC2 [provisionally termed ASIC2a (MDEG1, BNaC1 α , BNC1 α) [109, 284, 350] and ASIC2b (MDEG2, BNaC1 β)

[205]] have been cloned. Unlike ASIC2a (listed in table), heterologous expression of ASIC2b alone does not support H⁺-gated currents. A third member, ASIC3 (DRASIC, TNaC1) [348], has been identified. A fourth mammalian member of the family (ASIC4/SPASIC) does not support a proton-gated channel in heterologous expression systems and is reported to down regulate the expression of ASIC1a and ASIC3 [5, 80, 120]. ASIC channels are primarily expressed in central and peripheral neurons including nociceptors where they participate in neuronal sensitivity to acidosis. They have also been detected in taste receptor cells (ASIC1-3), photoreceptors and retinal cells (ASIC1-3), cochlear hair cells (ASIC1b), testis (hASIC3), pituitary gland (ASIC4), lung epithelial cells (ASIC1a and -3), urothelial cells, adipose cells (ASIC3), vascular smooth muscle cells (ASIC1-3), immune cells (ASIC1,-3 and -4) and bone (ASIC1-3). The acti-

vation of ASIC1a within the central nervous system contributes to neuronal injury caused by focal ischemia [364] and to axonal degeneration in autoimmune inflammation in a mouse model of multiple sclerosis [102]. However, activation of ASIC1a can terminate seizures [382]. Peripheral ASIC3-containing channels play a role in post-operative pain [74]. Further proposed roles for centrally and peripherally located ASICs are reviewed in [357] and [203]. The relationship of the cloned ASICs to endogenously expressed proton-gated ion channels is becoming established [78, 79, 94, 126, 203, 204, 322, 355, 356, 357]. Heterologously expressed heteromultimers form ion channels with altered kinetics, ion selectivity, pH- sensitivity and sensitivity to blockers that resemble some of the native proton activated currents recorded from neurones [15, 22, 94, 205].

Nomenclature
HGNC, UniProt

ASIC1
ASIC1, P78348

ASIC2
ASIC2, Q16515

ASIC3
ASIC3, Q9UHC3

(continued)			
Nomenclature	ASIC1	ASIC2	ASIC3
Functional Characteristics	ASIC1a: γ 14 pS $P_{Na}/P_K = 5\text{--}13$, $P_{Na}/P_{Ca} = 2.5$ rapid activation rate (5.8–13.7 ms), rapid inactivation rate (1.2–4 s) @ pH 6.0, slow recovery (5.3–13 s) @ pH 7.4 ASIC1b: γ 19 pS $P_{Na}/P_K = 14.0$, $P_{Na} \gg P_{Ca}$ rapid activation rate (9.9 ms), rapid inactivation rate (0.9–1.7 s) @ pH 6.0, slow recovery (4.4–7.7 s) @ pH 7.4	γ 10.4–13.4 pS $P_{Na}/P_K = 10$, $P_{Na}/P_{Ca} = 20$ rapid activation rate, moderate inactivation rate (3.3–5.5 s) @ pH 5	γ 13–15 pS; biphasic response consisting of rapidly inactivating transient and sustained components; very rapid activation (<5 ms) and inactivation (0.4 s); fast recovery (0.4–0.6 s) @ pH 7.4, transient component partially inactivated at pH 7.2
Endogenous activators	Extracellular H^+ (ASIC1a) ($pEC_{50} \sim 6.2\text{--}6.8$), Extracellular H^+ (ASIC1b) ($pEC_{50} \sim 5.1\text{--}6.2$)	Extracellular H^+ ($pEC_{50} \sim 4.1\text{--}5$)	Extracellular H^+ (transient component) ($pEC_{50} \sim 6.2\text{--}6.7$), Extracellular H^+ (sustained component) ($pEC_{50} \sim 3.5\text{--}4.3$)
Activators	–	–	GMQ (largly non-desensitizing; at pH 7.4) ($pEC_{50} \sim 3$), arcaine (at pH 7.4) ($pEC_{50} \sim 2.9$), agmatine (at pH 7.4) ($pEC_{50} \sim 2$)
Channel blockers	psalmotoxin 1 (ASIC1a) (pIC_{50} 9), Zn²⁺ (ASIC1a) ($pIC_{50} \sim 8.2$), Pb²⁺ (ASIC1b) ($pIC_{50} \sim 5.8$), A-317567 (ASIC1a) ($pIC_{50} \sim 5.7$) [87] – Rat, Pb²⁺ (ASIC1a) ($pIC_{50} \sim 5.4$), amiloride (ASIC1a) (pIC_{50} 5), benzamil (ASIC1a) (pIC_{50} 5), ethylisopropylamiloride (ASIC1a) (pIC_{50} 5), nafamostat (ASIC1a) ($pIC_{50} \sim 4.9$), amiloride (ASIC1b) (pIC_{50} 4.6–4.7), flurbiprofen (ASIC1a) (pIC_{50} 3.5) [345] – Rat, ibuprofen (ASIC1a) ($pIC_{50} \sim 3.5$), Ni²⁺ (ASIC1a) ($pIC_{50} \sim 3.2$)	amiloride (pIC_{50} 4.6), A-317567 ($pIC_{50} \sim 4.5$), nafamostat ($pIC_{50} \sim 4.2$), Cd²⁺ ($pIC_{50} \sim 3$)	APETx2 (transient component only) (pIC_{50} 7.2), nafamostat (transient component) ($pIC_{50} \sim 5.6$), A-317567 ($pIC_{50} \sim 5$), amiloride (transient component only - sustained component enhanced by 200 μ M amiloride at pH 4) (pIC_{50} 4.2–4.8), Gd³⁺ (pIC_{50} 4.4), Zn²⁺ (pIC_{50} 4.2), aspirin (sustained component) (pIC_{50} 4) [345], diclofenac (sustained component) (pIC_{50} 4), salicylic acid (sustained component) (pIC_{50} 3.6)
Labelled ligands	[¹²⁵ I]psalmotoxin 1 (ASIC1a) (pK_d 9.7)	–	–
Comments	ASIC1a and ASIC1b are also blocked by diarylamidines (IC_{50} 3 μ M for ASIC1a)	ASIC2 is also blocked by diarylamidines	ASIC3 is also blocked by diarylamidines

Comments: **psalmotoxin 1** (PcTx1) inhibits ASIC1a by modifying activation and desensitization by H^+ , but promotes ASIC1b opening. PcTx1 has little effect upon ASIC2a, ASIC3, or ASIC1a expressed as a heteromultimer with either ASIC2a, or ASIC3 [79, 94] but does block ASIC1a expressed as a heteromultimer with ASIC2b [304]. **Spermine**, which apparently competes with PcTx1 for binding to ASIC1a, selectively enhances the function of the channel [85]. Blockade of ASIC1a by PcTx1 activates the endogenous enkephalin pathway and has very potent analgesic effects in rodents [228]. **APETx2** most potently blocks homomeric ASIC3 channels, but also ASIC2b+ASIC3, ASIC1b+ASIC3, and ASIC1a+ASIC3 heteromeric channels with IC_{50} values of 117 nM, 900 nM and 2 μ M, respectively. **APETx2** has no effect on ASIC1a, ASIC1b, ASIC2a, or ASIC2a+ASIC3 [78, 79]. IC_{50} val-

ues for **A-317567** are inferred from blockade of ASIC channels native to dorsal root ganglion neurones [87]. The pEC_{50} values for proton activation of ASIC channels are influenced by numerous factors including extracellular di- and poly-valent ions, Zn^{2+} , protein kinase C and serine proteases (reviewed in [204]). Rapid acidification is required for activation of ASIC1 and ASIC3 due to fast inactivation/desensitization. pEC_{50} values for H^+ -activation of either transient, or sustained, currents mediated by ASIC3 vary in the literature and may reflect species and/or methodological differences [16, 348, 383]. The transient and sustained current components mediated by rASIC3 are selective for Na^+ [348]; for hASIC3 the transient component is Na^+ selective ($P_{Na}/P_K > 10$) whereas the sustained current appears non-selective ($P_{Na}/P_K = 1.6$) [16, 383]. The reducing agents dithiothreitol (DTT) and glu-

tathione (GSH) increase ASIC1a currents expressed in CHO cells and ASIC-like currents in sensory ganglia and central neurons [9, 59] whereas oxidation, through the formation of intersubunit disulphide bonds, reduces currents mediated by ASIC1a [379]. ASIC1a is also irreversibly modulated by extracellular serine proteases, such as trypsin, through proteolytic cleavage [346]. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are direct blockers of ASIC currents at therapeutic concentrations (reviewed in [344]). Extracellular Zn^{2+} potentiates proton activation of homomeric and heteromeric channels incorporating ASIC2a, but not homomeric ASIC1a or ASIC3 channels [21]. However, removal of contaminating Zn^{2+} by chealation reveals a high affinity block of homomeric ASIC1a and heteromeric ASIC1a+ASIC2 channels by

Zn²⁺ indicating complex biphasic actions of the divalent [60]. Nitric oxide potentiates submaximal currents activated by H⁺ mediated by ASIC1a, ASIC1b, ASIC2a and ASIC3 [42]. Ammonium activates ASIC channels (most likely ASIC1a) in midbrain dopaminergic neurones: that may be relevant to neuronal disorders associated with hyperammonemia [278]. The positive mod-

ulation of homomeric, heteromeric and native ASIC channels by the peptide FMRFamide and related substances, such as neuropeptides FF and SF, is reviewed in detail in [204]. Inflammatory conditions and particular pro-inflammatory mediators induce overexpression of ASIC-encoding genes, enhance ASIC currents [223], and in the case of arachidonic acid directly activate

the channel [75, 310]. The sustained current component mediated by ASIC3 is potentiated by hypertonic solutions in a manner that is synergistic with the effect of arachidonic acid [75]. Selective activation of ASIC3 by GMQ at a site separate from the proton binding site is potentiated by mild acidosis and reduced extracellular Ca²⁺ [376].

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Epithelial sodium channels (ENaC)

Ligand-gated ion channels → Epithelial sodium channels (ENaC)

Overview: The epithelial sodium channels (ENaC) mediates sodium reabsorption in the aldosterone-sensitive distal part of the nephron and the collecting duct of the kidney. ENaC is found on other tight epithelial tissues such as the airways, distal colon and exocrine glands. ENaC activity is tightly regulated in the kidney by aldosterone, angiotensin II (AGT, P01019), vasopressin (AVP, P01185), insulin (INS, P01308) and glucocorticoids; this fine regulation of ENaC is essential to maintain sodium balance

between daily intake and urinary excretion of sodium, circulating volume and blood pressure. ENaC expression is also vital for clearance of foetal lung fluid, and to maintain air-surface-liquid [147, 209]. Sodium reabsorption is suppressed by the 'potassium-sparing' diuretics amiloride and triamterene. ENaC is a heteromultimeric channel made of homologous α β and γ subunits. The primary structure of α ENaC subunit was identified by expression cloning [43]; β and γ ENaC were identified by functional comple-

mentation of the α subunit [44]. Each ENaC subunit contains 2 TM α helices connected by a large extracellular loop and short cytoplasmic amino- and carboxy-termini. The stoichiometry of the epithelial sodium channel in the kidney and related epithelia is, by homology with the structurally related channel ASIC1a, thought to be a heterotrimer of 1 α :1 β :1 γ subunits [114].

Nomenclature	ENaC $\alpha\beta\gamma$
Subunits	ENaC β , ENaC α , ENaC γ

(continued)

Functional Characteristics	<p>$\gamma \approx 4\text{--}5$ pS, $P_{\text{Na}}/P_{\text{K}} > 20$; tonically open at rest; expression and ion flux regulated by circulating aldosterone-mediated changes in gene transcription. The action of aldosterone, which occurs in 'early' (1.5–3 h) and 'late' (6–24 hr) phases is competitively antagonised by spironolactone, its active metabolites and eplerenone. Glucocorticoids are important functional regulators in lung/airways and this control is potentiated by thyroid hormone; but the mechanism underlying such potentiation is unclear [18, 287, 296]. The density of channels in the apical membrane, and hence G_{Na}, can be controlled via both serum and glucocorticoid-regulated kinases (SGK1, 2 and 3) [70, 101] and via cAMP/PKA [246]; and these protein kinases appear to act by inactivating Nedd-4/2, a ubiquitin ligase that normally targets the ENaC channel complex for internalization and degradation [31, 70]. ENaC is constitutively activated by soluble and membrane-bound serine proteases, such as furin, prostatic (CAP1), plasmin and elastase [186, 187, 281, 289, 290]. The activation of ENaC by proteases is blocked by a protein, SPLUNC1, secreted by the airways and which binds specifically to ENaC to prevent its cleavage [108]. Pharmacological inhibitors of proteases (<i>e.g.</i> camostat acting upon prostatic) reduce the activity of ENaC [219]. Phosphatidylinositides such as $\text{PtdIns}(4,5)\text{P}_2$ and $\text{PtdIns}(3,4,5)\text{P}_3$ stabilise channel gating probably by binding to the β and γ ENaC subunits, respectively [217, 283], whilst C terminal phosphorylation of β and γ-ENaC by ERK1/2 has been reported to inhibit the withdrawal of the channel complex from the apical membrane [367]. This effect may contribute to the cAMP-mediated increase in sodium conductance.</p>
Activators	S3969 (pEC ₅₀ 5.9) [211]
Channel blockers	P552-02 (pIC ₅₀ 8.1), benzamil (pIC ₅₀ ~8), amiloride (pIC ₅₀ 6.7–7), triamterene (pIC ₅₀ ~5.3) [44, 176]

Comments: Data in the table refer to the $\alpha\beta\gamma$ heteromer. There are several human diseases resulting from mutations in ENaC subunits. Liddle's syndrome (including features of salt-sensitive hypertension and hypokalemia), is associated with gain of function mutations in the β and γ subunits leading to defective ENaC

ubiquitylation and increased stability of active ENaC at the cell surface [290, 298, 316]. Enzymes that deubiquitylate ENaC increase its function *in vivo*. Pseudohypoaldosteronism type 1 (PHA-1) can occur through either mutations in the gene encoding the mineralocorticoid receptor, or loss of function mutations in

genes encoding ENaC subunits [34]. Regulation of ENaC by phosphoinositides may underlie insulin (*INS*, P01308)-evoked renal Na^+ retention that can complicate the clinical management of type 2 diabetes using insulin-sensitizing thiazolidinedione drugs [121].

Subunits

Nomenclature	ENaC α	ENaC β	ENaC δ	ENaC γ
HGNC, UniProt	SCNN1A, P37088	SCNN1B, P51168	SCNN1D, P51172	SCNN1G, P51170

Further Reading

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GABA_A receptors

Ligand-gated ion channels → GABA_A receptors

Overview: The GABA_A receptor is a ligand-gated ion channel of the Cys-loop family that includes the nicotinic acetylcholine, 5-HT₃ and strychnine-sensitive glycine receptors. GABA_A receptor-mediated inhibition within the CNS occurs by fast synaptic transmission, sustained tonic inhibition and temporally intermediate events that have been termed ‘GABA_A, slow’ [45]. GABA_A receptors exist as pentamers of 4TM subunits that form an intrinsic anion selective channel. Sequences of six α , three β , three γ , one δ , three ρ , one ϵ , one π and one θ GABA_A receptor subunits have been reported in mammals [263, 264, 305, 307]. The π -subunit is restricted to reproductive tissue. Alternatively spliced versions of many subunits exist (e.g. $\alpha 4$ - and $\alpha 6$ - (both not functional) $\alpha 5$ -, $\beta 2$ -, $\beta 3$ - and $\gamma 2$), along with RNA editing of the $\alpha 3$ subunit [66]. The three ρ -subunits, ($\rho 1$ -3) function as either homo- or hetero-oligomeric assemblies [53, 380]. Receptors formed from ρ -subunits, because of their distinctive pharmacology that includes insensitivity to bicuculline, benzodiazepines and barbiturates, have sometimes been termed GABA_C receptors [380], **but they are classified as GABA_A receptors by NC-IUPHAR on the basis of structural and functional criteria** [19, 263, 264].

Many GABA_A receptor subtypes contain α -, β - and γ -subunits with the likely stoichiometry 2 α .2 β .1 γ [190, 264]. It is thought

that the majority of GABA_A receptors harbour a single type of α - and β -subunit variant. The $\alpha 1\beta 2\gamma 2$ hetero-oligomer constitutes the largest population of GABA_A receptors in the CNS, followed by the $\alpha 2\beta 3\gamma 2$ and $\alpha 3\beta 3\gamma 2$ isoforms. Receptors that incorporate the $\alpha 4$ - $\alpha 5$ -or $\alpha 6$ -subunit, or the $\beta 1$ -, $\gamma 1$ -, $\gamma 3$ -, δ -, ϵ - and θ -subunits, are less numerous, but they may nonetheless serve important functions. For example, extrasynaptically located receptors that contain $\alpha 6$ - and δ -subunits in cerebellar granule cells, or an $\alpha 4$ - and δ -subunit in dentate gyrus granule cells and thalamic neurones, mediate a tonic current that is important for neuronal excitability in response to ambient concentrations of GABA [25, 96, 244, 301, 311]. GABA binding occurs at the β +/ α - subunit interface and the homologous γ +/ α - subunits interface creates the benzodiazepine site. A second site for benzodiazepine binding has recently been postulated to occur at the α +/ β - interface ([286]; reviewed by [306]). The particular α - and γ -subunit isoforms exhibit marked effects on recognition and/or efficacy at the benzodiazepine site. Thus, receptors incorporating either $\alpha 4$ - or $\alpha 6$ -subunits are not recognised by ‘classical’ benzodiazepines, such as flunitrazepam (but see [374]). The trafficking, cell surface expression, internalisation and function of GABA_A receptors and their subunits are discussed in detail in several recent reviews [58, 153, 214, 343] but one point worthy of note is that receptors

incorporating the $\gamma 2$ subunit (except when associated with $\alpha 5$) cluster at the postsynaptic membrane (but may distribute dynamically between synaptic and extrasynaptic locations), whereas as those incorporating the δ subunit appear to be exclusively extrasynaptic.

NC-IUPHAR [19, 264] class the GABA_A receptors according to their subunit structure, pharmacology and receptor function. Currently, eleven native GABA_A receptors are classed as conclusively identified (*i.e.*, $\alpha 1\beta 2\gamma 2$, $\alpha 1\beta \gamma 2$, $\alpha 3\beta \gamma 2$, $\alpha 4\beta \gamma 2$, $\alpha 4\beta 2\delta$, $\alpha 4\beta 3\delta$, $\alpha 5\beta \gamma 2$, $\alpha 6\beta \gamma 2$, $\alpha 6\beta 2\delta$, $\alpha 6\beta 3\delta$ and ρ) with further receptor isoforms occurring with high probability, or only tentatively [263, 264]. It is beyond the scope of this Guide to discuss the pharmacology of individual GABA_A receptor isoforms in detail; such information can be gleaned in the reviews [19, 104, 165, 190, 192, 249, 263, 264, 305] and [11, 12]. Agents that discriminate between α -subunit isoforms are noted in the table and additional agents that demonstrate selectivity between receptor isoforms, for example via β -subunit selectivity, are indicated in the text below. The distinctive agonist and antagonist pharmacology of ρ receptors is summarised in the table and additional aspects are reviewed in [53, 166, 253, 380].

Nomenclature	GABA _A receptor $\alpha 1$ subunit	GABA _A receptor $\alpha 2$ subunit	GABA _A receptor $\alpha 3$ subunit
HGNC, UniProt	GABRA1, P14867	GABRA2, P47869	GABRA3, P34903
Agonists	gaboxadol [GABA site], isoguvacine [GABA site], isonipetric acid [GABA site], muscimol [GABA site], piperidine-4-sulphonic acid [GABA site]	gaboxadol [GABA site], isoguvacine [GABA site], isonipetric acid [GABA site], muscimol [GABA site], piperidine-4-sulphonic acid [GABA site]	gaboxadol [GABA site], isoguvacine [GABA site], isonipetric acid [GABA site], muscimol [GABA site], piperidine-4-sulphonic acid [GABA site]

(continued)			
Nomenclature	GABA _A receptor $\alpha 1$ subunit	GABA _A receptor $\alpha 2$ subunit	GABA _A receptor $\alpha 3$ subunit
Selective antagonists	bicuculline [GABA site], gabazine [GABA site]	bicuculline [GABA site], gabazine [GABA site]	bicuculline [GABA site], gabazine [GABA site]
Channel blockers	TBPS, picrotoxin	TBPS, picrotoxin	TBPS, picrotoxin
Endogenous allosteric modulators	5 α -pregnan-3 α -ol-20-one (Potentiation), Zn ²⁺ (Inhibition), tetrahydrodeoxycorticosterone (Potentiation)		
Nomenclature	GABA _A receptor $\alpha 1$ subunit	GABA _A receptor $\alpha 2$ subunit	GABA _A receptor $\alpha 3$ subunit
Allosteric modulators	clonazepam (Positive) (pK _i 8.9) [285], flunitrazepam [benzodiazepine site] (Positive) (pK _i 8.3) [122], diazepam [benzodiazepine site] (Positive) (pK _i 7.8) [285], alprazolam [benzodiazepine site] (Positive) (pEC ₅₀ 7.4) [6], $\alpha 3$ IA [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), $\alpha 5$ IA [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), DMCM [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), MRK016 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), RO4938581 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), Ro15-4513 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), Ro19-4603 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), TP003 [benzodiazepine site] (Antagonist), TPA023 [benzodiazepine site] (Antagonist), bretazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Full agonist), flumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Antagonist)	clonazepam (Positive) (pK _i 8.8) [285], flunitrazepam [benzodiazepine site] (Positive) (pK _i 8.3) [122], alprazolam [benzodiazepine site] (Positive) (pEC ₅₀ 7.9) [6], diazepam [benzodiazepine site] (Positive) (pK _i 7.8) [285], $\alpha 3$ IA [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), $\alpha 5$ IA [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), DMCM [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), MRK016 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), RO4938581 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), Ro15-4513 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), Ro19-4603 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), TP003 [benzodiazepine site] (Antagonist), ZK93426 [benzodiazepine site] (Antagonist), bretazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Full agonist), flumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Antagonist), ocinaplon [benzodiazepine site] (Partial agonist)	clonazepam (Positive) (pK _i 8.7) [285], flunitrazepam [benzodiazepine site] (Positive) (pK _i 7.8) [122], diazepam [benzodiazepine site] (Positive) (pK _i 7.8) [285], alprazolam [benzodiazepine site] (Positive) (pEC ₅₀ 7.2) [6], $\alpha 5$ IA [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), DMCM [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), MRK016 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), RO4938581 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), Ro15-4513 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), ZK93426 [benzodiazepine site] (Antagonist), bretazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Full agonist), flumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Antagonist), ocinaplon [benzodiazepine site] (Partial agonist)
Selective allosteric modulators	zolpidem (Positive) (pK _i 7.4–7.7) [123, 299], L838417 [benzodiazepine site] (Antagonist), ZK93426 [benzodiazepine site] (Antagonist), indiplon [benzodiazepine site] (Full agonist), ocinaplon [benzodiazepine site] (Full agonist)	L838417 [benzodiazepine site] (Partial agonist), TPA023 [benzodiazepine site] (Partial agonist)	$\alpha 3$ IA [benzodiazepine site] (higher affinity), L838417 [benzodiazepine site] (Partial agonist), Ro19-4603 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), TP003 [benzodiazepine site] (Partial agonist), TPA023 [benzodiazepine site] (Partial agonist)
Labelled ligands	[¹¹ C]flumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Antagonist), [¹⁸ F]fluoroethylflumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Antagonist), [³⁵ S]TBPS [anion channel] (Channel blocker), [³ H]CGS8216 [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Mixed), [³ H]flunitrazepam [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Positive), [³ H]gabazine [GABA site] (Antagonist), [³ H]muscimol [GABA site] (Agonist), [³ H]zolpidem [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Positive)	[¹¹ C]flumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Antagonist), [¹⁸ F]fluoroethylflumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Antagonist), [³⁵ S]TBPS [anion channel] (Channel blocker), [³ H]CGS8216 [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Mixed), [³ H]flunitrazepam [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Full agonist), [³ H]gabazine [GABA site] (Antagonist), [³ H]muscimol [GABA site] (Agonist)	[¹¹ C]flumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Antagonist), [¹⁸ F]fluoroethylflumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Antagonist), [³⁵ S]TBPS [anion channel] (Channel blocker), [³ H]CGS8216 [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Mixed), [³ H]flunitrazepam [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Full agonist), [³ H]gabazine [GABA site] (Antagonist), [³ H]muscimol [GABA site] (Agonist)
Comments	Zn ²⁺ is an endogenous allosteric regulator and causes potent inhibition of receptors formed from binary combinations of α and β subunits, incorporation of a δ or γ subunit causes a modest, or pronounced, reduction in inhibitory potency, respectively [191]		

Nomenclature	GABA _A receptor $\alpha 4$ subunit	GABA _A receptor $\alpha 5$ subunit	GABA _A receptor $\alpha 6$ subunit
HGNC, UniProt	GABRA4, P48169	GABRA5, P31644	GABRA6, Q16445
Agonists	gaboxadol [GABA site], isoguvacine [GABA site], muscimol [GABA site], piperidine-4-sulphonic acid [GABA site] (low efficacy)	gaboxadol [GABA site], isoguvacine [GABA site], isonipecotic acid [GABA site], muscimol [GABA site], piperidine-4-sulphonic acid [GABA site]	gaboxadol [GABA site], isoguvacine [GABA site], muscimol [GABA site], piperidine-4-sulphonic acid [GABA site] (low efficacy)
Selective agonists	isonipecotic acid [GABA site] (relatively high efficacy)	–	isonipecotic acid [GABA site] (relatively high efficacy)
Selective antagonists	bicuculline [GABA site], gabazine [GABA site]	bicuculline [GABA site], gabazine [GABA site]	bicuculline [GABA site], gabazine [GABA site]
Channel blockers	TBPS, picrotoxin	TBPS, picrotoxin	TBPS, picrotoxin
Endogenous allosteric modulators	5 α -pregnan-3 α -ol-20-one (Potentiation), Zn ²⁺ (Inhibition), tetrahydrodeoxycorticosterone (Potentiation)	5 α -pregnan-3 α -ol-20-one (Potentiation), Zn ²⁺ (Inhibition), tetrahydrodeoxycorticosterone (Potentiation)	5 α -pregnan-3 α -ol-20-one (Potentiation), Zn ²⁺ (Inhibition), tetrahydrodeoxycorticosterone (Potentiation)
Allosteric modulators	flumazenil (Partial agonist)	flunitrazepam [benzodiazepine site] (Positive) (pK _i 8.3) [122], alprazolam [benzodiazepine site] (Positive) (pEC ₅₀ 8) [6], $\alpha 5$ IA [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), DMCM [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), Ro15-4513 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), Ro19-4603 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), TP003 [benzodiazepine site] (Antagonist), TPA023 [benzodiazepine site] (Antagonist), ZK93426 [benzodiazepine site] (Antagonist), bretazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Full agonist), flumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Antagonist), ocinaplon [benzodiazepine site] (Partial agonist)	bretazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Full agonist), flumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Partial agonist)
Selective allosteric modulators	Ro15-4513 [benzodiazepine site] (Full agonist), bretazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Full agonist)	$\alpha 5$ IA [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), L655708 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), L838417 [benzodiazepine site] (Partial agonist), MRK016 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), RO4938581 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist), RY024 [benzodiazepine site] (Inverse agonist)	Ro15-4513 [benzodiazepine site] (Full agonist)
Labelled ligands	[¹¹ C]flumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Partial agonist), [¹⁸ F]fluoroethylflumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Antagonist), [³⁵ S]TBPS [anion channel] (Channel blocker), [³ H]CGS8216 [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Mixed), [³ H]Ro154513 [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Full agonist), [³ H]gabazine [GABA site] (Antagonist), [³ H]muscimol [GABA site] (Agonist)	[³ H]RY80 [benzodiazepine site] (Selective Binding) (pK _d 9.2) [309] – Rat, [¹¹ C]flumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Antagonist), [¹⁸ F]fluoroethylflumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Antagonist), [³⁵ S]TBPS [anion channel] (Channel blocker), [³ H]CGS8216 [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Mixed), [³ H]L655708 [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Inverse agonist), [³ H]flunitrazepam [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Full agonist), [³ H]gabazine [GABA site] (Antagonist), [³ H]muscimol [GABA site] (Agonist)	[¹¹ C]flumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Partial agonist), [¹⁸ F]fluoroethylflumazenil [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Antagonist), [³⁵ S]TBPS [anion channel] (Channel blocker), [³ H]CGS8216 [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Mixed), [³ H]Ro154513 [benzodiazepine site] (Allosteric modulator, Full agonist), [³ H]gabazine [GABA site] (Antagonist), [³ H]muscimol [GABA site] (Agonist)

(continued)					
Nomenclature	GABA _A receptor $\alpha 4$ subunit		GABA _A receptor $\alpha 5$ subunit		GABA _A receptor $\alpha 6$ subunit
Comments	diazepam and flunitrazepam are not active at this subunit. Zn ²⁺ is an endogenous allosteric regulator and causes potent inhibition of receptors formed from binary combinations of α and β subunits, incorporation of a δ or γ subunit causes a modest, or pronounced, reduction in inhibitory potency, respectively [191]. [³ H]Ro154513 selectively labels $\alpha 4$ -subunit-containing receptors in the presence of a saturating concentration of a 'classical' benzodiazepine (e.g. diazepam)		Zn ²⁺ is an endogenous allosteric regulator and causes potent inhibition of receptors formed from binary combinations of α and β subunits, incorporation of a δ or γ subunit causes a modest, or pronounced, reduction in inhibitory potency, respectively [191]		diazepam and flunitrazepam are not active at this subunit. Zn ²⁺ is an endogenous allosteric regulator and causes potent inhibition of receptors formed from binary combinations of α and β subunits, incorporation of a δ or γ subunit causes a modest, or pronounced, reduction in inhibitory potency, respectively [191]. [³ H]Ro154513 selectively labels $\alpha 6$ -subunit-containing receptors in the presence of a saturating concentration of a 'classical' benzodiazepine (e.g. diazepam)

Nomenclature	GABA _A receptor $\beta 1$ subunit	GABA _A receptor $\beta 2$ subunit	GABA _A receptor $\beta 3$ subunit	GABA _A receptor $\gamma 1$ subunit	GABA _A receptor $\gamma 2$ subunit
HGNC, UniProt	GABRB1, P18505	GABRB2, P47870	GABRB3, P28472	GABRG1, Q8N1C3	GABRG2, P18507
Channel blockers	TBPS, picrotoxin	TBPS, picrotoxin	TBPS, picrotoxin	TBPS, picrotoxin	TBPS, picrotoxin
Allosteric modulators	–	–	etazolate (Binding) (pIC ₅₀ 5.5) [378]	–	–
Comments	Zn ²⁺ is an endogenous allosteric regulator and causes potent inhibition of receptors formed from binary combinations of α and β subunits, incorporation of a δ or γ subunit causes a modest, or pronounced, reduction in inhibitory potency, respectively [191]				

Nomenclature	GABA _A receptor $\gamma 3$ subunit	GABA _A receptor δ subunit	GABA _A receptor ϵ subunit	GABA _A receptor θ subunit	GABA _A receptor π subunit
HGNC, UniProt	GABRG3, Q99928	GABRD, O14764	GABRE, P78334	GABRQ, Q9UN88	GABRP, O00591
Selective agonists	–	gaboxadol [GABA site]	–	–	–
Channel blockers	TBPS, picrotoxin	TBPS, picrotoxin	TBPS, picrotoxin	TBPS, picrotoxin	TBPS, picrotoxin
Comments	Zn ²⁺ is an endogenous allosteric regulator and causes potent inhibition of receptors formed from binary combinations of α and β subunits, incorporation of a δ or γ subunit causes a modest, or pronounced, reduction in inhibitory potency, respectively [191]	Zn ²⁺ is an endogenous allosteric regulator and causes potent inhibition of receptors formed from binary combinations of α and β subunits, incorporation of a δ or γ subunit causes a modest, or pronounced, reduction in inhibitory potency, respectively [191]	–	–	–

Nomenclature	GABA _A receptor $\rho 1$ subunit	GABA _A receptor $\rho 2$ subunit	GABA _A receptor $\rho 3$ subunit
HGNC, UniProt	GABRR1 , P24046	GABRR2 , P28476	GABRR3 , A8MPY1
Agonists	isoguvacine [GABA site] (Partial agonist), muscimol [GABA site] (Partial agonist)	isoguvacine [GABA site] (Partial agonist), muscimol [GABA site] (Partial agonist)	isoguvacine [GABA site] (Partial agonist), muscimol [GABA site] (Partial agonist)
Selective agonists	(\pm)- cis-2-CAMP [GABA site], 5-Me-IAA [GABA site]	(\pm)- cis-2-CAMP [GABA site], 5-Me-IAA [GABA site]	(\pm)- cis-2-CAMP [GABA site], 5-Me-IAA [GABA site]
Antagonists	gaboxadol [GABA site], isonipecotic acid [GABA site], piperidine-4-sulphonic acid [GABA site]	gaboxadol [GABA site], isonipecotic acid [GABA site], piperidine-4-sulphonic acid [GABA site]	gaboxadol [GABA site], isonipecotic acid [GABA site], piperidine-4-sulphonic acid [GABA site]
Selective antagonists	cis-3-ACBPBA [GABA site], trans-3-ACBPBA [GABA site], TPMPA [GABA site], aza-THIP [GABA site]	cis-3-ACBPBA [GABA site], trans-3-ACBPBA [GABA site], TPMPA [GABA site], aza-THIP [GABA site]	cis-3-ACBPBA [GABA site], trans-3-ACBPBA [GABA site], TPMPA [GABA site], aza-THIP [GABA site]
Channel blockers	TBPS , picrotoxin	TBPS , picrotoxin	TBPS , picrotoxin
Comments	bicuculline is not active at this subunit	bicuculline is not active at this subunit	bicuculline is not active at this subunit

Comments: The potency and efficacy of many GABA agonists vary between GABA_A receptor isoforms [104, 172, 192]. For example, [gaboxadol](#) is a partial agonist at receptors with the subunit composition $\alpha 4\beta 3\gamma 2$, but elicits currents in excess of those evoked by GABA at the $\alpha 4\beta 3\delta$ receptor where GABA itself is a low efficacy agonist [29, 38]. The antagonists [bicuculline](#) and [gabazine](#) differ in their ability to suppress spontaneous openings of the GABA_A receptor, the former being more effective [333]. The presence of the γ subunit within the heterotrimeric complex reduces the potency and efficacy of agonists [319]. The GABA_A receptor contains distinct allosteric sites that bind barbiturates and endogenous (e.g., [5 \$\alpha\$ -pregnan-3 \$\alpha\$ -ol-20-one](#)) and synthetic (e.g., [alphaxalone](#)) neuroactive steroids in a diastereo- or enantio-selective manner [26, 131, 142, 341]. Picrotoxinin and TBPS act at an allosteric site within the chloride channel pore to negatively regulate channel activity; negative allosteric regulation by γ -butyrolactone derivatives also involves the [picrotoxinin](#) site, whereas positive allosteric regulation by such compounds is proposed to occur at a distinct locus. Many intravenous (e.g., [etomidate](#), [propofol](#)) and inhalational (e.g., [halothane](#),

[isoflurane](#)) anaesthetics and alcohols also exert a regulatory influence upon GABA_A receptor activity [33, 262]. Specific amino acid residues within GABA_A receptor α - and β -subunits that influence allosteric regulation by anaesthetic and non-anaesthetic compounds have been identified [129, 142]. Photoaffinity labelling of distinct amino acid residues within purified GABA_A receptors by the etomidate derivative, [3 H][azietomidate](#), has also been demonstrated [202] and this binding subject to positive allosteric regulation by anaesthetic steroids [201]. An array of natural products including flavonoid and terpenoid compounds exert varied actions at GABA_A receptors (reviewed in detail in [165]).

In addition to the agents listed in the table, modulators of GABA_A receptor activity that exhibit subunit dependent activity include: [salicylidene salicylhydrazide](#) [negative allosteric modulator selective for $\beta 1$ - versus $\beta 2$ -, or $\beta 3$ -subunit-containing receptors [334]]; fragment dioxane derivatives [positive allosteric modulators selective for $\beta 1$ - versus $\beta 2$ -, or $\beta 3$ -subunit-containing receptors [302]]; [loreclezole](#), [etomidate](#), [tracazolate](#), [mefenamic acid](#), [etifoxine](#), [stiripentol](#), [valerenic acid amide](#) [positive allosteric modulators

with selectivity for $\beta 2/\beta 3$ - over $\beta 1$ -subunit-containing receptors [99, 182, 190]]; [tracazolate](#) [intrinsic efficacy, i.e., potentiation, or inhibition, is dependent upon the identity of the $\gamma 1$ -3-, δ -, or ϵ -subunit co-assembled with $\alpha 1$ - and $\beta 1$ -subunits [332]]; [amiloride](#) [selective blockade of receptors containing an $\alpha 6$ -subunit [98]]; [furosemide](#) [selective blockade of receptors containing an $\alpha 6$ -subunit co-assembled with $\beta 2/\beta 3$ -, but not $\beta 1$ -subunit [190]]; [La³⁺](#) [potentiates responses mediated by $\alpha 1\beta 3\gamma 2$ L receptors, weakly inhibits $\alpha 6\beta 3\gamma 2$ L receptors, and strongly blocks $\alpha 6\beta 3\delta$ and $\alpha 4\beta 3\delta$ receptors [38, 295]]; [ethanol](#) [selectively potentiates responses mediated by $\alpha 4\beta 3\delta$ and $\alpha 6\beta 3\delta$ receptors versus receptors in which $\beta 2$ replaces $\beta 3$, or γ replaces δ [351], but see also [189]]; [DS1](#) and [DS2](#) [selectively potentiate responses mediated by δ -subunit-containing receptors [347]]. It should be noted that the apparent selectivity of some positive allosteric modulators (e.g., neurosteroids such as [5 \$\alpha\$ -pregnan-3 \$\alpha\$ -ol-20-one](#) for δ -subunit-containing receptors (e.g., $\alpha 1\beta 3\delta$) may be a consequence of the unusually low efficacy of GABA at this receptor isoform [25, 29].

Glycine receptors

Ligand-gated ion channels → Glycine receptors

Overview: The inhibitory glycine receptor (**nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Glycine Receptors**) is a member of the Cys-loop superfamily of transmitter-gated ion channels that includes the zinc activated channels, GABA_A, nicotinic acetylcholine and 5-HT₃ receptors [215]. The receptor is expressed either as a homo-pentamer of α subunits, or a complex now thought to harbour 2 α and 3 β subunits [28, 118], that contain an intrinsic anion channel. Four differentially expressed isoforms of the α -subunit ($\alpha 1$ – $\alpha 4$) and one variant of the β -subunit ($\beta 1$, *GLRB*, P48167) have been identified by genomic and cDNA cloning. Further diversity originates from alternative splicing of the primary gene transcripts for $\alpha 1$ ($\alpha 1^{\text{INS}}$

and $\alpha 1^{\text{del}}$), $\alpha 2$ ($\alpha 2A$ and $\alpha 2B$), $\alpha 3$ ($\alpha 3S$ and $\alpha 3L$) and β ($\beta \Delta 7$) subunits and by mRNA editing of the $\alpha 2$ and $\alpha 3$ subunit [91, 230, 261]. Both $\alpha 2$ splicing and $\alpha 3$ mRNA editing can produce subunits (*i.e.*, $\alpha 2B$ and $\alpha 3P185L$) with enhanced agonist sensitivity. Predominantly, the mature form of the receptor contains $\alpha 1$ (or $\alpha 3$) and β subunits while the immature form is mostly composed of only $\alpha 2$ subunits. RNA transcripts encoding the $\alpha 4$ -subunit have not been detected in adult humans. The N-terminal domain of the α -subunit contains both the agonist and **strychnine** binding sites that consist of several discontinuous regions of amino acids. Inclusion of the β -subunit in the pentameric glycine receptor contributes to agonist binding, reduces single channel conductance and alters pharmacology. The β -subunit also anchors

the receptor, via an amphipathic sequence within the large intracellular loop region, to gephyrin. The latter is a cytoskeletal attachment protein that binds to a number of subsynaptic proteins involved in cytoskeletal structure and thus clusters and anchors hetero-oligomeric receptors to the synapse [185, 188, 247]. G-protein $\beta\gamma$ subunits enhance the open state probability of native and recombinant glycine receptors by association with domains within the large intracellular loop [371, 372]. Intracellular chloride concentration modulates the kinetics of native and recombinant glycine receptors [280]. Intracellular Ca^{2+} appears to increase native and recombinant glycine receptor affinity, prolonging channel open events, by a mechanism that does not involve phosphorylation [105].

Nomenclature	glycine receptor $\alpha 1$ subunit	glycine receptor $\alpha 2$ subunit
HGNC, UniProt	<i>GLRA1</i> , P23415	<i>GLRA2</i> , P23416
Selective agonists (potency order)	glycine > β -alanine > taurine	glycine > β -alanine > taurine
Functional Characteristics	γ = 86 pS (main state); (+ β = 44 pS)	γ = 111 pS (main state); (+ β = 54 pS)
Selective antagonists	ginkgolide X (pIC ₅₀ 6.1), pregnenolone sulphate (pK _i 5.7), nifedipine (pIC ₅₀ 5.5), bilobalide (pIC ₅₀ 4.7), tropisetron (pK _i 4.1), colchicine (pIC ₅₀ 3.5), HU-308 (weak inhibition), PMBA, strychnine	HU-210 (pIC ₅₀ 7), WIN55212-2 (pIC ₅₀ 6.7), HU-308 (pIC ₅₀ 6), ginkgolide X (pIC ₅₀ 5.6), pregnenolone sulphate (pK _i 5.3), bilobalide (pIC ₅₀ 5.1), tropisetron (pK _i 4.9), colchicine (pIC ₅₀ 4.2), 5,7-dichlorokynurenic acid (pIC ₅₀ 3.7), PMBA, strychnine
Channel blockers	ginkgolide B (pIC ₅₀ 5.1–6.2), cyanotriphenylborate (pIC ₅₀ 5.9) [292], picrotin (pIC ₅₀ 5.3), picrotoxinin (pIC ₅₀ 5.3), picrotoxin (pIC ₅₀ 5.2)	picrotoxinin (pIC ₅₀ 6.4), picrotoxin (pIC ₅₀ 5.6), ginkgolide B (pIC ₅₀ 4.9–5.4), picrotin (pIC ₅₀ 4.9), cyanotriphenylborate (pIC ₅₀ >4.7) [292]
Endogenous allosteric modulators	Zn ²⁺ (Potentiation) (pEC ₅₀ 7.4), Cu ²⁺ (Inhibition) (pIC ₅₀ 4.8–5.4), Zn ²⁺ (Inhibition) (pIC ₅₀ 4.8), Extracellular H ⁺ (Inhibition)	Zn ²⁺ (Potentiation) (pEC ₅₀ 6.3), Cu ²⁺ (Inhibition) (pIC ₅₀ 4.8), Zn ²⁺ (Inhibition) (pIC ₅₀ 3.4)
Selective allosteric modulators	anandamide (Potentiation) (pEC ₅₀ 7.4), HU-210 (Potentiation) (pEC ₅₀ 6.6), Δ^9 -tetrahydrocannabinol (Potentiation) (pEC ₅₀ ~5.5)	Δ^9 -tetrahydrocannabinol (Potentiation) (pEC ₅₀ ~6)
Labelled ligands	[³ H]strychnine (Antagonist)	[³ H]strychnine (Antagonist)

	glycine receptor $\alpha 3$ subunit	glycine receptor $\alpha 4$ subunit (<i>pseudogene in humans</i>)	glycine receptor β subunit
Nomenclature	<i>GLRA3</i> , O75311	<i>GLRA4</i> , Q5JXX5	<i>GLRB</i> , P48167
HGNC, UniProt			
Selective agonists (potency order)	glycine > β -alanine > taurine	–	–
Functional Characteristics	γ = 105 pS (main state); (+ β = 48)	–	–
Selective antagonists	HU-210 (pIC ₅₀ 7.3), HU-308 (pIC ₅₀ 7), WIN55212-2 (pIC ₅₀ 7), (12E,20Z,18S)-8-hydroxyvariabilin (pIC ₅₀ 5.2), nifedipine (pIC ₅₀ 4.5), strychnine	–	nifedipine (when co-expressed with the $\alpha 1$ subunit) (pIC ₅₀ 5.9), pregnenolone sulphate (when co-expressed with the $\alpha 1$ subunit) (pK _i 5.6), tropisetron (when co-expressed with the $\alpha 2$ subunit) (pK _i 5.3), pregnenolone sulphate (when co-expressed with the $\alpha 2$ subunit) (pK _i 5), nifedipine (when co-expressed with the $\alpha 3$ subunit) (pIC ₅₀ 4.9), bilobalide (when co-expressed with the $\alpha 2$ subunit) (pIC ₅₀ 4.3), bilobalide (when co-expressed with the $\alpha 1$ subunit) (pIC ₅₀ 3.7), ginkgolide X (when co-expressed with the $\alpha 1$ subunit) (pIC ₅₀ > 3.5), ginkgolide X (when co-expressed with the $\alpha 2$ subunit) (pIC ₅₀ > 3.5)
Channel blockers	picrotoxinin (pIC ₅₀ 6.4), ginkgolide B (pIC ₅₀ 5.7), picrotin (pIC ₅₀ 5.2), picrotoxin (block is weaker when β subunit is co-expressed)	–	ginkgolide B (when co-expressed with the $\alpha 2$ subunit) (pIC ₅₀ 6.1–6.9), ginkgolide B (when co-expressed with the $\alpha 1$ subunit) (pIC ₅₀ 5.6–6.7), ginkgolide B (when co-expressed with the $\alpha 3$ subunit) (pIC ₅₀ 6.3), cyanotriphenylborate (when co-expressed with the human $\alpha 1$ subunit) (pIC ₅₀ 5.6) [292] – Rat, cyanotriphenylborate (when co-expressed with the human $\alpha 2$ subunit) (pIC ₅₀ 5.1) [292] – Rat, picrotoxinin (when co-expressed with the $\alpha 3$ subunit) (pIC ₅₀ 5.1), picrotin (when co-expressed with the $\alpha 1$ subunit) (pIC ₅₀ 4.6), picrotin (when co-expressed with the $\alpha 3$ subunit) (pIC ₅₀ 4.6), picrotoxinin (when co-expressed with the $\alpha 1$ subunit) (pIC ₅₀ 4.6), picrotoxin (when co-expressed with the $\alpha 2$ subunit) (pIC ₅₀ 4.5), picrotoxin (when co-expressed with the $\alpha 1$ subunit) (pIC ₅₀ 3.7)
Endogenous allosteric modulators	Cu ²⁺ (Inhibition) (pIC ₅₀ 5), Zn ²⁺ (Inhibition) (pIC ₅₀ 3.8)	–	Zn ²⁺ (Inhibition) (pIC ₅₀ 4.9), Zn ²⁺ (Inhibition) (pIC ₅₀ 3.7)
Selective allosteric modulators	Δ^9 -tetrahydrocannabinol (Potentiation) (pEC ₅₀ ~5.3)	–	–
Labelled ligands	[³ H]strychnine (Antagonist)	–	–
Comments	–	–	Ligand interaction data for hetero-oligomer receptors containing the β subunit are also listed under the α subunit

Comments: Data in the table refer to homo-oligomeric assemblies of the α -subunit, significant changes introduced by co-expression of the $\beta 1$ subunit are indicated in parenthesis. Not all glycine receptor ligands are listed within the table, but some that may be useful in distinguishing between glycine receptor isoforms are indicated (see detailed view pages for each subunit: $\alpha 1$, $\alpha 2$, $\alpha 3$, $\alpha 4$, β). Pregnenolone sulphate, tropisetron and colchicine, for example, although not selective antagonists of glycine receptors, are included for this purpose. Strychnine is a

potent and selective competitive glycine receptor antagonist with affinities in the range 5–15 nM. RU5135 demonstrates comparable potency, but additionally blocks GABA_A receptors. There are conflicting reports concerning the ability of cannabinoids to inhibit [210], or potentiate and at high concentrations activate [4, 73, 128, 363, 368] glycine receptors. Nonetheless, cannabinoid analogues may hold promise in distinguishing between glycine receptor subtypes [368]. In addition, potentiation of glycine receptor activity by cannabinoids has been claimed to contribute

to cannabis-induced analgesia relying on Ser296/307 ($\alpha 1/\alpha 3$) in M3 [363]. Several analogues of muscimol and piperidine act as agonists and antagonists of both glycine and GABA_A receptors. Picrotoxin acts as an allosteric inhibitor that appears to bind within the pore, and shows strong selectivity towards homomeric receptors. While its components, picrotoxinin and picrotin, have equal potencies at $\alpha 1$ receptors, their potencies at $\alpha 2$ and $\alpha 3$ receptors differ modestly and may allow some distinction between different receptor types [369]. Binding of picrotoxin within the

pore has been demonstrated in the crystal structure of the related *C. elegans* GluCl Cys-loop receptor [132]. In addition to the compounds listed in the table, numerous agents act as allosteric regulators of glycine receptors (comprehensively reviewed in [197, 216, 354, 373]). Zn^{2+} acts through distinct binding sites of high- and low-affinity to allosterically enhance channel function at low (<10 μM) concentrations and inhibits responses at higher concentrations in a subunit selective manner [237]. The effect of Zn^{2+} is somewhat mimicked by Ni^{2+} . Endogenous Zn^{2+} is essential for normal glycinergic neurotransmission mediated by $\alpha 1$ subunit-containing receptors [135]. Elevation of intracellular Ca^{2+} produces fast potentiation of glycine receptor-

mediated responses. Dideoxyforskolin (4 μM) and **tamoxifen** (0.2–5 μM) both potentiate responses to low glycine concentrations (15 μM), but act as inhibitors at higher glycine concentrations (100 μM). Additional modulatory agents that enhance glycine receptor function include inhalational, and several intravenous general anaesthetics (*e.g.* **minaxolone**, **propofol** and **pentobarbitone**) and certain neurosteroids. **Ethanol** and higher order n-alcohols also enhance glycine receptor function although whether this occurs by a direct allosteric action at the receptor [225], or through $\beta\gamma$ subunits [370] is debated. Recent crystal structures of the bacterial homologue, GLIC, have identified transmembrane binding pockets for both anaesthetics [259] and alcohols [144]. Solvents inhaled as drugs of abuse (*e.g.* **toluene**,

1-1-1-trichloroethane) may act at sites that overlap with those recognising alcohols and volatile anaesthetics to produce potentiation of glycine receptor function. The function of glycine receptors formed as homomeric complexes of $\alpha 1$ or $\alpha 2$ subunits, or hetero-oligomers of $\alpha 1/\beta$ or $\alpha 2/\beta$ subunits, is differentially affected by the 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist tropisetron (ICS 205-930) which may evoke potentiation (which may occur within the femtomolar range at the homomeric glycine $\alpha 1$ receptor), or inhibition, depending upon the subunit composition of the receptor and the concentrations of the modulator and glycine employed. Potentiation and inhibition by tropeines involves different binding modes [220]. Additional tropeines, including **atropine**, modulate glycine receptor activity.

Further Reading

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 Tsetlin V *et al.* (2011) Assembly of nicotinic and other Cys-loop receptors. *J. Neurochem.* **116**: 734–41 [PMID:21214570]
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Ionotropic glutamate receptors

Ligand-gated ion channels → Ionotropic glutamate receptors

Overview: The ionotropic glutamate receptors comprise members of the NMDA (N-methyl-D-aspartate), AMPA (α -amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazolepropionic acid) and kainate receptor classes, named originally according to their preferred, synthetic, agonist [76, 208, 338]. Receptor heterogeneity within each class arises from the homo-oligomeric, or hetero-oligomeric, assembly of distinct subunits into cation-selective tetramers. Each subunit of the tetrameric complex comprises an extracellular amino terminal domain (ATD), an extracellular ligand binding domain (LBD), three transmembrane domains composed of three membrane spans (M1, M3 and M4), a channel lining re-entrant 'p-loop' (M2) located between M1 and M3 and an intracellular carboxy-terminal domain (CTD) [168, 193, 226, 250, 338]. The X-ray structure of a homomeric ionotropic glutamate receptor (GluA2 - see below) has recently been solved at 3.6Å resolution [313] and although providing the most complete structural information current available may not be representative of the subunit arrangement of, for example, the heteromeric NMDA receptors [171]. It is beyond the scope of this supplement to discuss the pharmacology of individual ionotropic glutamate receptor isoforms in detail; such information can be gleaned from [55, 65, 76, 93, 155, 156, 179, 265, 266, 267, 338, 362]. Agents that discriminate between subunit isoforms are, where appropriate, noted in the tables and additional compounds that distinguish between receptor isoforms are indicated in the text below.

The classification of glutamate receptor subunits has recently been re-addressed by NC-IUPHAR [62]. The scheme developed recommends a revised nomenclature for ionotropic glutamate receptor subunits that is adopted here.

NMDA receptors

NMDA receptors assemble as obligate heteromers that may be drawn from GluN1, GluN2A, GluN2B, GluN2C, GluN2D,

GluN3A and GluN3B subunits. Alternative splicing can generate eight isoforms of GluN1 with differing pharmacological properties. Various splice variants of GluN2B, 2C, 2D and GluN3A have also been reported. Activation of NMDA receptors containing GluN1 and GluN2 subunits requires the binding of two agonists, glutamate to the S1 and S2 regions of the GluN2 subunit and glycine to S1 and S2 regions of the GluN1 subunit [56, 92]. The minimal requirement for efficient functional expression of NMDA receptors *in vitro* is a di-heteromeric assembly of GluN1 and at least one GluN2 subunit variant, as a dimer of heterodimers arrangement in the extracellular domain [106, 171, 226]. However, more complex tri-heteromeric assemblies, incorporating multiple subtypes of GluN2 subunit, or GluN3 subunits, can be generated *in vitro* and occur *in vivo*. The NMDA receptor channel commonly has a high relative permeability to Ca^{2+} and is blocked, in a voltage-dependent manner, by Mg^{2+} such that at resting potentials the response is substantially inhibited.

AMPA and Kainate receptors

AMPA receptors assemble as homomers, or heteromers, that may be drawn from GluA1, GluA2, GluA3 and GluA4 subunits. Transmembrane AMPA receptor regulatory proteins (TARPs) of class I (i.e. $\gamma 2$, $\gamma 3$, $\gamma 4$ and $\gamma 8$) act, with variable stoichiometry, as auxiliary subunits to AMPA receptors and influence their trafficking, single channel conductance gating and pharmacology (reviewed in [95, 152, 239, 336]). Functional kainate receptors can be expressed as homomers of GluK1, GluK2 or GluK3 subunits. GluK1-3 subunits are also capable of assembling into heterotetramers (e.g. GluK1/K2; [199, 276, 279]). Two additional kainate receptor subunits, GluK4 and GluK5, when expressed individually, form high affinity binding sites for *kainate*, but lack function, but can form heteromers when expressed with GluK1-3 subunits

(e.g. GluK2/K5; reviewed in [156, 276, 279]). Kainate receptors may also exhibit 'metabotropic' functions [199, 288]. As found for AMPA receptors, kainate receptors are modulated by auxiliary subunits (Neto proteins, [200, 276]). An important function difference between AMPA and kainate receptors is that the latter require extracellular Na^+ and Cl^- for their activation [35, 282]. RNA encoding the GluA2 subunit undergoes extensive RNA editing in which the codon encoding a p-loop glutamine residue (Q) is converted to one encoding arginine (R). This Q/R site strongly influences the biophysical properties of the receptor. Recombinant AMPA receptors lacking RNA edited GluA2 subunits are: (1) permeable to Ca^{2+} ; (2) blocked by intracellular polyamines at depolarized potentials causing inward rectification (the latter being reduced by TARPs); (3) blocked by extracellular argitoxin and Joro spider toxins and (4) demonstrate higher channel conductances than receptors containing the edited form of GluA2 [150, 300]. GluK1 and GluK2, but not other kainate receptor subunits, are similarly edited and broadly similar functional characteristics apply to kainate receptors lacking either an RNA edited GluK1, or GluK2, subunit [199, 276]. Native AMPA and kainate receptors displaying differential channel conductances, Ca^{2+} permeabilities and sensitivity to block by intracellular polyamines have been identified [64, 150, 206]. GluA1-4 can exist as two variants generated by alternative splicing (termed 'flip' and 'flop') that differ in their desensitization kinetics and their desensitization in the presence of cyclothiazide which stabilises the non-desensitized state. TARPs also stabilise the non-desensitized conformation of AMPA receptors and facilitate the action of *cyclothiazide* [239]. Splice variants of GluK1-3 also exist which affects their trafficking [199, 276].

Nomenclature	GluA1	GluA2	GluA3	GluA4
HGNC, UniProt	<i>GRIA1</i> , P42261	<i>GRIA2</i> , P42262	<i>GRIA3</i> , P42263	<i>GRIA4</i> , P48058
Agonists	(S)-5-fluorowillardiine, AMPA	(S)-5-fluorowillardiine, AMPA	(S)-5-fluorowillardiine, AMPA	(S)-5-fluorowillardiine, AMPA
Selective antagonists	ATPO, GYKI53655, GYKI53784 (active isomer, non-competitive), NBQX , tezampanel	ATPO, GYKI53655, GYKI53784 (active isomer, non-competitive), NBQX , tezampanel	ATPO, GYKI53655, GYKI53784 (active isomer, non-competitive), NBQX , tezampanel	ATPO, GYKI53655, GYKI53784 (active isomer, non-competitive), NBQX , tezampanel
Channel blockers	extracellular argitoxin , extracellular joro toxin (selective for channels lacking GluA2)	extracellular argitoxin	extracellular argitoxin , extracellular joro toxin (selective for channels lacking GluA2)	extracellular argitoxin , extracellular joro toxin (selective for channels lacking GluA2)
Allosteric modulators	LY392098 (Positive) (pEC ₅₀ 5.8) [240], LY404187 (Positive) (pEC ₅₀ 5.2) [240], cyclothiazide (Positive) (pEC ₅₀ 4.7) [240], CX516 (Positive), CX546 (Positive), IDRA-21 (Positive), LY503430 (Positive), S18986 (Positive), aniracetam (Positive), piracetam (Positive)			
Labelled ligands	[³ H]AMPA (Agonist), [³ H]CNQX (Antagonist)	[³ H]AMPA (Agonist), [³ H]CNQX (Antagonist)	[³ H]AMPA, [³ H]CNQX	[³ H]AMPA (Agonist), [³ H]CNQX
Comments	piracetam and aniracetam are examples of pyrrolidinones. cyclothiazide , S18986 , and IDRA-21 are examples of benzothiadiazides. CX516 and CX546 are examples of benzylpiperidines. LY392098 , LY404187 and LY503430 are examples of biarylpropylsulfonamides. Also blocked by intracellular polyamines.			

Nomenclature	GluD1	GluD2	GluK1	GluK2	GluK3	GluK4	GluK5
HGNC, UniProt	<i>GRID1</i> , Q9ULK0	<i>GRID2</i> , O43424	<i>GRIK1</i> , P39086	<i>GRIK2</i> , Q13002	<i>GRIK3</i> , Q13003	<i>GRIK4</i> , Q16099	<i>GRIK5</i> , Q16478
Agonists	–	–	(S)-4-AHCP, (S)-5-iodowillardiine, 8-deoxy-neodysiherbaine, ATPA, LY339434, SYM2081, domoic acid, dysiherbaine, kainate	SYM2081, domoic acid, dysiherbaine, kainate	SYM2081, dysiherbaine, kainate (low potency)	SYM2081, domoic acid, dysiherbaine, kainate	SYM2081, domoic acid, dysiherbaine, kainate
Selective antagonists	–	–	2,4-epi-neodysiherbaine, ACET, LY382884, LY466195, MSVIII-19, NS3763 (non-competitive), UBP302, UBP310	2,4-epi-neodysiherbaine	–	–	–
Allosteric modulators	–	–	concanavalin A (Positive)	concanavalin A (Positive)	–	–	–
Labelled ligands	–	–	[³ H]UBP310 (Antagonist) (pK _d 7.7) [13], [³ H](2S,4R)-4-methylglutamate (Agonist), [³ H]kainate (Agonist)	[³ H](2S,4R)-4-methylglutamate (Agonist), [³ H]kainate (Agonist)	[³ H]UBP310 (Antagonist) (pK _d 6.3) [13], [³ H](2S,4R)-4-methylglutamate (Agonist), [³ H]kainate (Agonist)	[³ H](2S,4R)-4-methylglutamate (Agonist), [³ H]kainate (Agonist)	[³ H](2S,4R)-4-methylglutamate (Agonist), [³ H]kainate (Agonist)
Comments	–	–	–	Intracellular polyamines are subtype selective channel blockers (GluK3 >> GluK2)	domoic acid and concanavalin A are inactive at the GluK3 subunit. Intracellular polyamines are subtype selective channel blockers (GluK3 >> GluK2)	–	–

	GluN1	GluN2A	GluN2B	GluN2C	GluN2D
Nomenclature	GluN1	GluN2A	GluN2B	GluN2C	GluN2D
HGNC, UniProt	GRIN1, Q05586	GRIN2A, Q12879	GRIN2B, Q13224	GRIN2C, Q14957	GRIN2D, O15399
Endogenous agonists	D-aspartic acid [glutamate site], D-serine [glycine site], L-aspartic acid [glutamate site], glycine [glycine site]	D-aspartic acid [glutamate site] (GluN2D > GluN2C = GluN2B > GluN2A), D-serine [glycine site] (GluN2D > GluN2C > GluN2B > GluN2A), L-aspartic acid [glutamate site] (GluN2D = GluN2B > GluN2C = GluN2A), glycine [glycine site] (GluN2D > GluN2C > GluN2B > GluN2A)	D-aspartic acid [glutamate site] (GluN2D > GluN2C = GluN2B > GluN2A), D-serine [glycine site] (GluN2D > GluN2C > GluN2B > GluN2A), L-aspartic acid [glutamate site] (GluN2D = GluN2B > GluN2C = GluN2A), glycine [glycine site] (GluN2D > GluN2C > GluN2B > GluN2A)	D-aspartic acid [glutamate site] (GluN2D > GluN2C = GluN2B > GluN2A), D-serine [glycine site] (GluN2D > GluN2C > GluN2B > GluN2A), L-aspartic acid [glutamate site] (GluN2D = GluN2B > GluN2C = GluN2A), glycine [glycine site] (GluN2D > GluN2C > GluN2B > GluN2A)	D-aspartic acid [glutamate site] (GluN2D > GluN2C = GluN2B > GluN2A), D-serine [glycine site] (GluN2D > GluN2C > GluN2B > GluN2A), L-aspartic acid [glutamate site] (GluN2D = GluN2B > GluN2C = GluN2A), glycine [glycine site] (GluN2D > GluN2C > GluN2B > GluN2A)
Agonists	(+)-HA966 [glycine site] (Partial agonist), (RS)-(tetrazol-5-yl)glycine [glutamate site], NMDA [glutamate site], homoquinolinic acid [glutamate site] (Partial agonist)	(+)-HA966 [glycine site] (Partial agonist), (RS)-(tetrazol-5-yl)glycine [glutamate site] (GluN2D > GluN2C = GluN2B > GluN2A), NMDA [glutamate site] (GluN2D > GluN2C > GluN2B > GluN2A), homoquinolinic acid [glutamate site] (GluN2B ≥ GluN2A ≥ GluN2D > GluN2C; partial agonist at GluN2A and GluN2C)	(+)-HA966 [glycine site] (Partial agonist), (RS)-(tetrazol-5-yl)glycine [glutamate site] (GluN2D > GluN2C = GluN2B > GluN2A), NMDA [glutamate site] (GluN2D > GluN2C > GluN2B > GluN2A), homoquinolinic acid [glutamate site] (GluN2B ≥ GluN2A ≥ GluN2D > GluN2C; partial agonist at GluN2A and GluN2C)	(RS)-(tetrazol-5-yl)glycine [glutamate site] (GluN2D > GluN2C = GluN2B > GluN2A), NMDA [glutamate site] (GluN2D > GluN2C > GluN2B > GluN2A), homoquinolinic acid [glutamate site] (GluN2B ≥ GluN2A ≥ GluN2D > GluN2C; partial agonist at GluN2A and GluN2C)	(RS)-(tetrazol-5-yl)glycine [glutamate site] (GluN2D > GluN2C = GluN2B > GluN2A), NMDA [glutamate site] (GluN2D > GluN2C > GluN2B > GluN2A), homoquinolinic acid [glutamate site] (GluN2B ≥ GluN2A ≥ GluN2D > GluN2C; partial agonist at GluN2A and GluN2C)
Selective antagonists	5,7-dichlorokynurenic acid [glycine site], GV196771A [glycine site], L689560 [glycine site], L701324 [glycine site]	5,7-dichlorokynurenic acid [glycine site], CGP37849 [glutamate site], GV196771A [glycine site], L689560 [glycine site], L701324 [glycine site], LY233053 [glutamate site], NVP-AAM077 [glutamate site] (GluN2A > GluN2B (human), but weakly selective for rat GluN2A versus GluN2B) [14, 97, 103, 252], UBP141 [glutamate site] (GluN2D ≥ GluN2C > GluN2A ≥ GluN2B) [245], conantokin-G [glutamate site] (GluN2B > GluN2D = GluN2C = GluN2A), d-AP5 [glutamate site], d-CCPene [glutamate site] (GluN2A = GluN2B > GluN2C = GluN2D), selfotel [glutamate site]	5,7-dichlorokynurenic acid [glycine site], CGP37849 [glutamate site], GV196771A [glycine site], L689560 [glycine site], L701324 [glycine site], LY233053 [glutamate site], NVP-AAM077 [glutamate site] (GluN2A > GluN2B (human), but weakly selective for rat GluN2A versus GluN2B) [14, 97, 103, 252], UBP141 [glutamate site] (GluN2D ≥ GluN2C > GluN2A ≥ GluN2B) [245], conantokin-G [glutamate site] (GluN2B > GluN2D = GluN2C = GluN2A), d-AP5 [glutamate site], d-CCPene [glutamate site] (GluN2A = GluN2B > GluN2C = GluN2D), selfotel [glutamate site]	5,7-dichlorokynurenic acid [glycine site], CGP37849 [glutamate site], GV196771A [glycine site], L689560 [glycine site], L701324 [glycine site], LY233053 [glutamate site], UBP141 [glutamate site] (GluN2D ≥ GluN2C > GluN2A ≥ GluN2B) [245], conantokin-G [glutamate site] (GluN2B > GluN2D = GluN2C = GluN2A), d-AP5 [glutamate site], d-CCPene [glutamate site] (GluN2A = GluN2B > GluN2C = GluN2D), selfotel [glutamate site]	5,7-dichlorokynurenic acid [glycine site], CGP37849 [glutamate site], GV196771A [glycine site], L689560 [glycine site], L701324 [glycine site], LY233053 [glutamate site], UBP141 [glutamate site] (GluN2D ≥ GluN2C > GluN2A ≥ GluN2B) [245], conantokin-G [glutamate site] (GluN2B > GluN2D = GluN2C = GluN2A), d-AP5 [glutamate site], d-CCPene [glutamate site] (GluN2A = GluN2B > GluN2C = GluN2D), selfotel [glutamate site]

(continued)					
Nomenclature	GluN1	GluN2A	GluN2B	GluN2C	GluN2D
Channel blockers	–	Mg ²⁺ (GluN2A = GluN2B > GluN2C = GluN2D), N ¹ -dansyl-spermine (GluN2A = GluN2B ≫ GluN2C = GluN2D), amantidine (GluN2C = GluN2D ≥ GluN2B ≥ GluN2A), dizocilpine, ketamine, phencyclidine	Mg ²⁺ (GluN2A = GluN2B > GluN2C = GluN2D), N ¹ -dansyl-spermine (GluN2A = GluN2B ≫ GluN2C = GluN2D), amantidine (GluN2C = GluN2D ≥ GluN2B ≥ GluN2A), dizocilpine, ketamine, phencyclidine	Mg ²⁺ (GluN2A = GluN2B > GluN2C = GluN2D), N ¹ -dansyl-spermine (GluN2A = GluN2B ≫ GluN2C = GluN2D), amantidine (GluN2C = GluN2D ≥ GluN2B ≥ GluN2A), dizocilpine, ketamine, phencyclidine	Mg ²⁺ (GluN2A = GluN2B > GluN2C = GluN2D), N ¹ -dansyl-spermine (GluN2A = GluN2B ≫ GluN2C = GluN2D), amantidine (GluN2C = GluN2D ≥ GluN2B ≥ GluN2A), dizocilpine, ketamine, phencyclidine
Labelled ligands	[³ H]CGP39653 [glutamate site] (Selective Antagonist), [³ H]CGP61594 [glycine site] (Antagonist), [³ H]CGS19755 [glutamate site] (Antagonist), [³ H]CPP [glutamate site] (Selective Antagonist), [³ H]L689560 [glycine site] (Antagonist), [³ H]MDL105519 [glycine site] (Antagonist), [³ H]dizocilpine [cation channel] (Antagonist), [³ H]glycine [glycine site] (Agonist)	[³ H]CGP39653 [glutamate site] (Antagonist), [³ H]CGP61594 [glycine site] (Antagonist), [³ H]CGS19755 [glutamate site] (Antagonist), [³ H]CPP [glutamate site] (Antagonist), [³ H]L689560 [glycine site] (Antagonist), [³ H]MDL105519 [glycine site] (Antagonist), [³ H]dizocilpine [cation channel] (Channel blocker), [³ H]glycine [glycine site] (Agonist)	[³ H]CGP39653 [glutamate site] (Antagonist), [³ H]CGP61594 [glycine site] (Antagonist), [³ H]CGS19755 [glutamate site] (Antagonist), [³ H]CPP [glutamate site] (Antagonist), [³ H]L689560 [glycine site] (Antagonist), [³ H]MDL105519 [glycine site] (Antagonist), [³ H]dizocilpine [cation channel] (Channel blocker), [³ H]glycine [glycine site] (Agonist)	[³ H]CGP39653 [glutamate site] (Antagonist), [³ H]CGP61594 [glycine site] (Antagonist), [³ H]CGS19755 [glutamate site] (Antagonist), [³ H]CPP [glutamate site] (Antagonist), [³ H]L689560 [glycine site] (Antagonist), [³ H]MDL105519 [glycine site] (Antagonist), [³ H]dizocilpine [cation channel] (Channel blocker), [³ H]glycine [glycine site] (Agonist)	[³ H]CGP39653 [glutamate site] (Antagonist), [³ H]CGP61594 [glycine site] (Antagonist), [³ H]CGS19755 [glutamate site] (Antagonist), [³ H]CPP [glutamate site] (Antagonist), [³ H]L689560 [glycine site] (Selective Antagonist), [³ H]MDL105519 [glycine site] (Antagonist), [³ H]dizocilpine [cation channel] (Channel blocker), [³ H]glycine [glycine site] (Agonist)

Nomenclature	GluN3A	GluN3B
HGNC, UniProt	GRIN3A, Q8TCU5	GRIN3B, O60391
Comments	See the main comments section below for information on the pharmacology of GluN3A and GluN3B subunits	

Comments: NMDA receptors

Potency orders unreferenced in the table are from [55, 84, 93, 194, 267, 338]. In addition to the glutamate and glycine binding sites documented in the table, physiologically important inhibitory modulatory sites exist for Mg²⁺, Zn²⁺, and protons [65, 76, 338]. Voltage-independent inhibition by Zn²⁺ binding with high affinity within the ATD is highly subunit selective (GluN2A >> GluN2B > GluN2C ≥

GluN2D; [267, 338]). The receptor is also allosterically modulated, in both positive and negative directions, by endogenous neuroactive steroids in a subunit dependent manner [141, 221]. Tonic proton blockade of NMDA receptor function is alleviated by polyamines and the inclusion of exon 5 within GluN1 subunit splice variants, whereas the non-competitive antagonists ifenprodil and traxoprodil increase the fraction of receptors blocked by protons at ambient concentration. Inclusion of exon 5 also abolishes potentiation by polyamines

and inhibition by Zn²⁺ that occurs through binding in the ATD [337]. Ifenprodil, traxoprodil, haloperidol, felbamate and Ro 8-4304 discriminate between recombinant NMDA receptors assembled from GluN1 and either GluN2A, or GluN2B, subunits by acting as selective, non-competitive, antagonists of heterooligomers incorporating GluN2B through a binding site at the ATD GluN1/GluN2B subunit interface [171]. LY233536 is a competitive antagonist that also displays selectivity for GluN2B over GluN2A subunit-containing receptors.

Similarly, [CGP61594](#) is a photoaffinity label that interacts selectively with receptors incorporating GluN2B versus GluN2A, GluN2D and, to a lesser extent, GluN2C subunits. TCN 201 and TCN 213 have recently been shown to block GluN2A NMDA receptors selectively by a mechanism that involves allosteric inhibition of glycine binding to the GluN1 site [[27](#), [89](#), [125](#), [229](#)]. In addition to influencing the pharmacological profile of the NMDA receptor, the identity of the GluN2 subunit co-assembled with GluN1 is an important determinant of biophysical properties that include sensitivity to block by Mg^{2+} , single-channel conductance and maximal open probability and channel deactivation time [[65](#), [92](#), [112](#)]. Incorporation of the GluN3A subunit into tri-heteromers containing GluN1 and GluN2 subunits is associated with decreased single-channel conductance, reduced permeability to Ca^{2+} and decreased susceptibility to block by Mg^{2+} [[46](#), [130](#)]. Reduced permeability to Ca^{2+} has also been observed following the inclusion of GluN3B in tri-heteromers. The expression of GluN3A, or GluN3B, with GluN1 alone forms, in *Xenopus laevis* oocytes, a cation channel with unique properties that include activation by [glycine](#) (but not [NMDA](#)), lack of permeation by

Ca^{2+} and resistance to blockade by Mg^{2+} and NMDA receptor antagonists [[50](#)]. The function of heteromers composed of GluN1 and GluN3A is enhanced by Zn^{2+} , or glycine site antagonists, binding to the GluN1 subunit [[218](#)]. Zn^{2+} also directly activates such complexes. The co-expression of GluN1, GluN3A and GluN3B appears to be required to form glycine-activated receptors in mammalian cell hosts [[312](#)].

AMPA and Kainate receptors

All AMPA receptors are additionally activated by [kainate](#) (and [domoic acid](#)) with relatively low potency, (EC_{50} 100 μ M). Inclusion of TARPs within the receptor complex increases the potency and maximal effect of kainate [[152](#), [239](#)]. AMPA is weak partial agonist at GluK1 and at heteromeric assemblies of GluK1/GluK2, GluK1/GluK5 and GluK2/GluK5 [[156](#)]. Quinoxalinediones such as [CNQX](#) and [NBQX](#) show limited selectivity between AMPA and kainate receptors. [Tezampanel](#) also has kainate (GluK1) receptor activity as has [GYKI53655](#) (GluK3 and GluK2/GluK3) [[156](#)]. [ATPO](#) is a potent competitive antagonist of AMPA receptors, has a weaker antagonist action at kainate receptors comprising GluK1 subunits, but is devoid

of activity at kainate receptors formed from GluK2 or GluK2/GluK5 subunits. The pharmacological activity of [ATPO](#) resides with the (S)-enantiomer. [ACET](#) and [UBP310](#) may block GluK3, in addition to GluK1 [[13](#), [275](#)]. (2S,4R)-4-methylglutamate ([SYM2081](#)) is equipotent in activating (and desensitising) GluK1 and GluK2 receptor isoforms and, via the induction of desensitisation at low concentrations, has been used as a functional antagonist of kainate receptors. Both (2S,4R)-4-methylglutamate and [LY339434](#) have agonist activity at NMDA receptors. (2S,4R)-4-methylglutamate is also an inhibitor of the glutamate transporters EAAT1 and EAAT2.

Delta subunits

GluD1 and GluD2 comprise, on the basis of sequence homology, an 'orphan' class of ionotropic glutamate receptor subunit. They do not form a functional receptor when expressed solely, or in combination with other ionotropic glutamate receptor subunits, in transfected cells [[377](#)]. However, GluD2 subunits bind [D-serine](#) and [glycine](#) and GluD2 subunits carrying the mutation A654T form a spontaneously open channel that is closed by [D-serine](#) [[251](#)].

IP₃ receptor

Ligand-gated ion channels → IP₃ receptor

Overview: The inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptors (IP₃R) are ligand-gated Ca²⁺-release channels on intracellular Ca²⁺ store sites (such as the endoplasmic reticulum). They are responsible for the mobilization of intracellular Ca²⁺ stores and play an important role in intracellular Ca²⁺ signalling in a wide variety of cell types. Three different gene products (types I-III) have been isolated, which assemble as large tetrameric structures. IP₃Rs are closely associated with certain proteins: **calmodulin** ([CALM1](#) [CALM2](#) [CALM3](#), [P62158](#)) and FKBP (and calcineurin via FKBP). They are phosphorylated by PKA, PKC, PKG and CaMKII.

Nomenclature	IP ₃ R1	IP ₃ R2	IP ₃ R3
HGNC, UniProt	ITPR1 , Q14643	ITPR2 , Q14571	ITPR3 , Q14573
Functional Characteristics	Ca ²⁺ : (P _{Ba} /P _K 6) single-channel conductance 70 pS (50 mM Ca ²⁺)	Ca ²⁺ : single-channel conductance 70 pS (50 mM Ca ²⁺) 390 pS (220 mM Cs ⁺)	Ca ²⁺ : single-channel conductance 88 pS (55 mM Ba ²⁺)
Endogenous activators	cytosolic ATP (< mM range), cytosolic Ca²⁺ Concentration range: <7.5×10 ⁻⁴ M, IP₃ (endogenous; nM - μM range)	cytosolic Ca²⁺ (nM range), IP₃ (endogenous; nM - μM range)	cytosolic Ca²⁺ (nM range), IP₃ (endogenous; nM - μM range)
Activators	adenophostin A (pharmacological; nM range), inositol 2,4,5-trisphosphate (pharmacological; also activated by other InsP ₃ analogues)	adenophostin A (pharmacological; nM range), inositol 2,4,5-trisphosphate (pharmacological; also activated by other InsP ₃ analogues)	–
Antagonists	PIP₂ (μM range), caffeine (mM range), decavanadate (μM range), xestospongins C (μM range)	decavanadate (μM range)	decavanadate (μM range)
Comments	IP ₃ R1 is also antagonised by calmodulin at high cytosolic Ca ²⁺ concentrations	–	–

Comments: The absence of a modulator of a particular isoform of receptor indicates that the action of that modulator has not been determined, not that it is without effect.

Further Reading

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 Decrock E *et al.* (2013) IP₃, a small molecule with a powerful message. *Biochim. Biophys. Acta* **1833**: 1772–86 [[PMID:23291251](#)]
 Foskett JK. (2010) Inositol trisphosphate receptor Ca²⁺ release channels in neurological diseases. *Pflügers*

Arch. **460**: 481–94 [[PMID:20383523](#)]
 Kiviluoto S *et al.* (2013) Regulation of inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptors during endoplasmic reticulum stress. *Biochim. Biophys. Acta* **1833**: 1612–24 [[PMID:23380704](#)]
 Rossi AM *et al.* (2012) Analysis of IP₃ receptors in and out of cells. *Biochim. Biophys. Acta* **1820**: 1214–27 [[PMID:22033379](#)]

Nicotinic acetylcholine receptors

Ligand-gated ion channels → Nicotinic acetylcholine receptors

Overview: Nicotinic acetylcholine receptors are members of the Cys-loop family of transmitter-gated ion channels that includes the GABA_A, strychnine-sensitive glycine and 5-HT₃ receptors [7, 236, 308, 324, 361]. All nicotinic receptors are pentamers in which each of the five subunits contains four α -helical transmembrane domains. Genes encoding a total of 17 subunits (α 1-10, β 1-4, γ , δ and ϵ) have been identified [169]. All subunits with the exception of α 8 (present in avian species) have been identified in mammals. All α subunits possess two tandem cysteine residues near to the site involved in acetylcholine binding, and subunits not named α lack these residues [236]. The orthosteric ligand binding site is formed by residues within at least three peptide domains on the α subunit (principal component), and three on the adjacent subunit (complementary component). nAChRs contain several allosteric modulatory sites. One such site, for positive allosteric modulators (PAMs) and allosteric agonists, has been proposed to reside within an intrasubunit cavity between the four transmembrane domains [113, 375]; see also [132]. The high resolution crystal structure of the molluscan acetylcholine binding protein, a structural homologue of the extracellular binding domain of a nicotinic receptor pentamer, in complex with several nicotinic receptor ligands (*e.g.* [47]) and the crystal structure of the extracellular domain of the α 1 subunit bound

to α -bungarotoxin at 1.94 Å resolution [72], has revealed the orthosteric binding site in detail (reviewed in [49, 169, 291, 308]). Nicotinic receptors at the somatic neuromuscular junction of adult animals have the stoichiometry (α 1)₂ β 1 δ ϵ , whereas an extrajunctional (α 1)₂ β 1 γ δ receptor predominates in embryonic and denervated skeletal muscle and other pathological states. Other nicotinic receptors are assembled as combinations of α (2-6) and β (2-4) subunits. For α 2, α 3, α 4 and β 2 and β 4 subunits, pairwise combinations of α and β (*e.g.* α 3 β 4 and α 4 β 2) are sufficient to form a functional receptor *in vitro*, but far more complex isoforms may exist *in vivo* (reviewed in [116, 117, 236]). There is strong evidence that the pairwise assembly of some α and β subunits can occur with variable stoichiometry [*e.g.* (α 4)₂(β 2)₂ or (α 4)₃(β 2)₂] which influences the biophysical and pharmacological properties of the receptor [236]. α 5 and β 3 subunits lack function when expressed alone, or pairwise, but participate in the formation of functional hetero-oligomeric receptors when expressed as a third subunit with another α and β pair [*e.g.* α 4 α 5 α β 2, α 4 α β 2 β 3, α 5 α 6 β 2, see [236] for further examples]. The α 6 subunit can form a functional receptor when co-expressed with β 4 *in vitro*, but more efficient expression ensues from incorporation of a third partner, such as β 3 [366]. The α 7, α 8, and α 9 subunits form functional homo-oligomers, but can also combine with

a second subunit to constitute a hetero-oligomeric assembly (*e.g.* α 7 β 2 and α 9 α 10). For functional expression of the α 10 subunit, co-assembly with α 9 is necessary. The latter, along with the α 10 subunit, appears to be largely confined to cochlear and vestibular hair cells. Comprehensive listings of nicotinic receptor subunit combinations identified from recombinant expression systems, or *in vivo*, are given in [236]. In addition, numerous proteins interact with nicotinic ACh receptors modifying their assembly, trafficking to and from the cell surface, and activation by ACh (reviewed by [10, 167, 235]). The nicotinic receptor Subcommittee of **NC-IUPHAR** has recommended a nomenclature and classification scheme for nicotinic acetylcholine (nACh) receptors based on the subunit composition of known, naturally- and/or heterologously-expressed nACh receptor subtypes [212]. Headings for this table reflect abbreviations designating nACh receptor subtypes based on the predominant α subunit contained in that receptor subtype. An asterisk following the indicated α subunit denotes that other subunits are known to, or may, assemble with the indicated α subunit to form the designated nACh receptor subtype(s). Where subunit stoichiometries within a specific nACh receptor subtype are known, numbers of a particular subunit larger than 1 are indicated by a subscript following the subunit (enclosed in parentheses - see also [62]).

	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor α 1 subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor α 2 subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor α 3 subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor α 4 subunit
Nomenclature	<i>CHRNA1</i> , P02708	<i>CHRNA2</i> , Q15822	<i>CHRNA3</i> , P32297	<i>CHRNA4</i> , P43681
Commonly used antagonists	(α 1) ₂ β 1 γ δ and (α 1) ₂ β 1 δ ϵ : α -bungarotoxin > pancuronium > vecuronium > rocuronium > tubocurarine (IC ₅₀ = 43 - 82 nM)	α 2 β 2: DH β E (K_B = 0.9 μ M), tubocurarine (K_B = 1.4 μ M); α 2 β 4: DH β E (K_B = 3.6 μ M), tubocurarine (K_B = 4.2 μ M)	α 3 β 2: DH β E (K_B = 1.6 μ M, IC ₅₀ = 2.0 μ M), tubocurarine (K_B = 2.4 μ M); α 3 β 4: DH β E (K_B = 19 μ M, IC ₅₀ = 26 μ M), tubocurarine (K_B = 2.2 μ M)	α 4 β 2: DH β E (K_B = 0.1 μ M; IC ₅₀ = 0.08 - 0.9 μ M), tubocurarine (K_B = 3.2 μ M, IC ₅₀ = 34 μ M); α 4 β 4: DH β E (K_B = 0.01 μ M, IC ₅₀ = 0.19 - 1.2 μ M), tubocurarine (K_B = 0.2 μ M, IC ₅₀ = 50 μ M)
Functional Characteristics	(α 1) ₂ β 1 γ δ : P _{Ca} /P _{Na} = 0.16 - 0.2, P _f = 2.1 - 2.9%; (α 1) ₂ β 1 δ ϵ : P _{Ca} /P _{Na} = 0.65 - 1.38, P _f = 4.1 - 7.2%	α 2 β 2: P _{Ca} /P _{Na} 1.5	α 3 β 2: P _{Ca} /P _{Na} = 1.5; α 3 β 4: P _{Ca} /P _{Na} = 0.78 - 1.1, P _f = 2.7 - 4.6%	α 4 β 2: P _{Ca} /P _{Na} = 1.65, P _f = 2.6 - 2.9%; α 4 β 4: P _f = 1.5 - 3.0 %
Selective agonists	succinylcholine (selective for (α 1) ₂ β 1 γ δ)	–	–	varenicline (pK _i 6.6) [61], TC-2559 (α 4 β 2) [57], rivanicline (α 4 β 2) [270]

(continued)				
Nomenclature	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 1$ subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 2$ subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 3$ subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 4$ subunit
Selective antagonists	α -bungarotoxin, α -conotoxin GI, α -conotoxin MI, pancuronium, waglerin-1 (selective for $(\alpha 1)_2\beta 1\delta\epsilon$)	–	α -conotoxin AulB ($\alpha 3\beta 4$), α -conotoxin MII ($\alpha 3\beta 2$), α -conotoxin PnIA ($\alpha 3\beta 2$), α -conotoxin TxIA ($\alpha 3\beta 2$), α -conotoxin-GIC ($\alpha 3\beta 2$)	–
Channel blockers	gallamine ($(\alpha 1)_2\beta 1\gamma\delta$ and $(\alpha 1)_2\beta 1\delta\epsilon$) ($pIC_{50} \sim 6$), mecamylamine ($(\alpha 1)_2\beta 1\delta\epsilon$) ($pIC_{50} \sim 5.8$)	hexamethonium, mecamylamine	mecamylamine ($\alpha 3\beta 4$) ($pIC_{50} 6.4$), mecamylamine ($\alpha 3\beta 2$) ($pIC_{50} 5.1$), A-867744 ($\alpha 3\beta 4$) [222], NS1738 ($\alpha 3\beta 4$) [335], hexamethonium ($\alpha 3\beta 4$), hexamethonium ($\alpha 3\beta 2$)	mecamylamine ($\alpha 4\beta 2$) ($pIC_{50} 5.4$ – 5.4), mecamylamine ($\alpha 4\beta 4$) ($pIC_{50} 6.5$ – 5.3), hexamethonium ($\alpha 4\beta 2$) ($pIC_{50} 5.2$ – 4.5), hexamethonium ($\alpha 4\beta 4$) ($pIC_{50} 4$), A-867744 ($\alpha 4\beta 2$) [222], NS1738 ($\alpha 4\beta 2$) [335]
Allosteric modulators	–	LY2087101 (Positive) [37]	–	LY2087101 (Positive) [37]
Selective allosteric modulators	–	–	–	NS9283 (Positive) [198]
Labelled ligands	$[^{125}I]\alpha$ -bungarotoxin (Selective Antagonist), $[^3H]\alpha$ -bungarotoxin (Selective Antagonist)	$[^{125}I]$ epibatidine (Agonist) (pK_d 11–10.7) – Rat, $[^3H]$ epibatidine (Agonist) (pK_d 11–10.7) – Rat, $[^{125}I]$ epibatidine (Agonist) (pK_d 10.4), $[^3H]$ epibatidine (Agonist) (pK_d 10.4), $[^{125}I]$ epibatidine (Agonist) (pK_d 10.1–10.1) – Rat, $[^3H]$ epibatidine (Agonist) (pK_d 10.1–10.1) – Rat, $[^3H]$ cytisine (Agonist)	$[^{125}I]$ epibatidine (Agonist) (pK_d 11.1), $[^3H]$ epibatidine (Agonist) (pK_d 11.1), $[^{125}I]$ epibatidine (Agonist) (pK_d 10.9–10.5) – Rat, $[^3H]$ epibatidine (Agonist) (pK_d 10.9–10.5) – Rat, $[^{125}I]$ epibatidine (Agonist) (pK_d 9.6), $[^3H]$ epibatidine (Agonist) (pK_d 9.6), $[^{125}I]$ epibatidine (Agonist) (pK_d 9.5–9.5) – Rat, $[^3H]$ epibatidine (Agonist) (pK_d 9.5–9.5) – Rat, $[^3H]$ cytisine (Agonist)	$[^{125}I]$ epibatidine (Agonist) (pK_d 11–10.5), $[^3H]$ epibatidine (Agonist) (pK_d 11–10.5), $[^3H]$ cytisine (Agonist) (pK_d 10), $[^3H]$ cytisine (Agonist) (pK_d 10) – Rat, $[^{125}I]$ epibatidine (Agonist) (pK_d 9.7), $[^3H]$ epibatidine (Agonist) (pK_d 9.7), $[^3H]$ nicotine (Agonist) (pK_d 9.4) – Rat, $[^{125}I]$ epibatidine (Agonist) (pK_d 9.5–9.3) – Rat, $[^3H]$ epibatidine (Agonist) (pK_d 9.5–9.3) – Rat, $[^3H]$ cytisine (Agonist) (pK_d 9.4–9.2), $[^{125}I]$ epibatidine (Agonist) (pK_d 9.1–9) – Rat, $[^3H]$ epibatidine (Agonist) (pK_d 9.1–9) – Rat

Nomenclature	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 5$ subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 6$ subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 7$ subunit
HGNC, UniProt	CHRNA5 , P30532	CHRNA6 , Q15825	CHRNA7 , P36544
Commonly used antagonists	–	$\alpha 6/\alpha 3\beta 2\beta 3$ chimera: DHβE (IC ₅₀ = 1.1 μ M)	($\alpha 7$) ₅ : DHβE (IC ₅₀ = 8 – 20 μ M); ($\alpha 7$) ₅ : tubocurarine (IC ₅₀ = 3.1 μ M)
Functional Characteristics	–	–	P _{Ca} /P _{Na} = 6.6–20, P _f = 8.8 – 11.4%
Selective agonists	–	–	encenicline (Partial agonist) (pK _i 8.4) [1, 227], AQW051 ([125I] α -bungarotoxin binding assay) (pK _i 7.6) [149], 4BP-TQS (allosteric) [113], A-582941 (($\alpha 7$) ₅) [30], PHA-543613 (($\alpha 7$) ₅) [359], PHA-709829 (($\alpha 7$) ₅) [3], PNU-282987 (($\alpha 7$) ₅) [32], bradanicline (($\alpha 7$) ₅) [127]
Selective antagonists	α-conotoxin MII , α-conotoxin PnIA , α-conotoxin TxIA , α-conotoxin-GIC	α-conotoxin MII ($\alpha 6\beta 2^*$), α-conotoxin MII [H9A, L15A] ($\alpha 6\beta 2\beta 3$), α-conotoxin PIA ($\alpha 6/\alpha 3\beta 2\beta 3$ chimera)	α-bungarotoxin (($\alpha 7$) ₅), α-conotoxin AαIB (($\alpha 7$) ₅), α-conotoxin Iml (($\alpha 7$) ₅), methyllycaconitine (($\alpha 7$) ₅)
Channel blockers	–	mecamylamine ($\alpha 6/\alpha 3\beta 2\beta 3$ chimera) (pIC ₅₀ 5), hexamethonium ($\alpha 6/\alpha 3\beta 2\beta 3$ chimera) (pIC ₅₀ 4)	mecamylamine (($\alpha 7$) ₅) (pIC ₅₀ 4.8)
Allosteric modulators	–	–	A-867744 (Positive) [222], LY2087101 (Positive) [37], NS1738 (Positive) [335]
Selective allosteric modulators	–	–	JNJ1930942 (Positive) [77], PNU-120596 (Positive) [148]
Labelled ligands	–	[³H]epibatidine (Agonist) (pK _d 10.5) – Chicken, [¹²⁵I]α-conotoxin MII (Antagonist)	[³H]epibatidine (Agonist) (pK _d 12.2), [³H]A-585539 (Agonist) (pK _d 10.1) [8], [³H]AZ11637326 (Agonist) (pK _d 9.6) [115], [³H]methyllycaconitine (Antagonist) (pK _d 8.7) – Rat, [¹²⁵I]α-bungarotoxin (Selective Antagonist) (pK _d 9.1–8.3), [³H]α-bungarotoxin (Selective Antagonist) (pK _d 9.1–8.3)

Nomenclature	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 8$ subunit (avian)	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 9$ subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\alpha 10$ subunit
HGNC, UniProt	–	<i>CHRNA9</i> , Q9UGM1	<i>CHRNA10</i> , Q9GZZ6
Commonly used antagonists	$(\alpha 8)_5$: α -bungarotoxin > atropine \geq tubocurarine \geq strychnine	$(\alpha 9)_5$: α -bungarotoxin > methyllycaconitine > strychnine tropisetron > tubocurarine; $\alpha 9\alpha 10$: α -bungarotoxin > tropisetron = strychnine > tubocurarine	$\alpha 9\alpha 10$: α -bungarotoxin > tropisetron = strychnine > tubocurarine
Functional Characteristics	–	$(\alpha 9)_5$: $P_{Ca}/P_{Na} = 9$; $\alpha 9\alpha 10$: $P_{Ca}/P_{Na} = 9$, $P_f = 22\%$	$\alpha 9\alpha 10$: $P_{Ca}/P_{Na} = 9$, $P_f = 22\%$
Selective antagonists	–	α -bungarotoxin ($(\alpha 9)_5$), α -bungarotoxin ($\alpha 9\alpha 10$), α -conotoxin RgIA ($\alpha 9\alpha 10$), muscarine ($(\alpha 9)_5$), muscarine ($\alpha 9\alpha 10$), nicotine ($\alpha 9\alpha 10$), nicotine ($(\alpha 9)_5$), strychnine ($(\alpha 9)_5$), strychnine ($\alpha 9\alpha 10$)	α -bungarotoxin ($\alpha 9\alpha 10$), α -conotoxin RgIA ($\alpha 9\alpha 10$), muscarine ($\alpha 9\alpha 10$), nicotine ($\alpha 9\alpha 10$), strychnine ($\alpha 9\alpha 10$)
Labelled ligands	$[^3H]$ epibatidine ($(\alpha 8)_5$) (pK_d 9.7), $[^{125}I]\alpha$ -bungarotoxin (native $\alpha 8^*$) (pK_d 8.3), $[^3H]\alpha$ -bungarotoxin (native $\alpha 8^*$) (pK_d 8.3)	$[^3H]$ methyllycaconitine (Antagonist) (pK_d 8.1), $[^{125}I]\alpha$ -bungarotoxin (Antagonist), $[^3H]\alpha$ -bungarotoxin (Antagonist)	$[^3H]$ methyllycaconitine (Antagonist) (pK_d 8.1)

Nomenclature	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\beta 1$ subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\beta 2$ subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\beta 3$ subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor $\beta 4$ subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor γ subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor δ subunit	nicotinic acetylcholine receptor ϵ subunit
HGNC, UniProt	<i>CHRNB1</i> , P11230	<i>CHRNB2</i> , P17787	<i>CHRNB3</i> , Q05901	<i>CHRNB4</i> , P30926	<i>CHRNA7</i> , P07510	<i>CHRNA8</i> , Q07001	<i>CHRNA9</i> , Q04844
Comments	Ligand interaction data for hetero-oligomeric receptors containing the $\beta 1$ subunit are listed under the $\alpha 1$ subunits						

Comments: Commonly used agonists of nACh receptors that display limited discrimination in functional assays between receptor subtypes include A-85380, cytisine, DMPP, epibatidine, nicotine and the natural transmitter, acetylcholine (ACh). A summary of their profile across differing receptors is provided in [117] and quantitative

data across numerous assay systems are summarized in [161]. Quantitative data presented in the table for commonly used antagonists and channel blockers for human receptors studied under voltage-clamp are from [41, 52, 268, 269, 273, 360]. Type I PAMs increase peak agonist-evoked responses but have little, or no, effect on the

rate of desensitization of $\alpha 7$ nicotinic ACh receptors whereas type II PAMs also cause a large reduction in desensitization (reviewed in [358]).

P2X receptors

Ligand-gated ion channels → P2X receptors

Overview: P2X receptors (**nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on P2X Receptors [62, 180]**) have a trimeric topology [163, 175, 254] with two putative TM domains, gating primarily Na⁺, K⁺ and Ca²⁺, exceptionally Cl[−]. The Nomenclature Subcommittee has recommended that for P2X re-

ceptors, structural criteria should be the initial criteria for nomenclature where possible. Functional P2X receptors exist as polymeric transmitter-gated channels; the native receptors may occur as either homopolymers (e.g. P2X1 in smooth muscle) or heteropolymers (e.g. P2X2:P2X3 in the nodose ganglion and P2X1:P2X5 in mouse cortical

astrocytes, [195]). P2X2, P2X4 and P2X7 receptors have been shown to form functional homopolymers which, in turn, activate pores permeable to low molecular weight solutes [321]. The hemi-channel pannexin-1 has been implicated in the pore formation induced by P2X7 [274], but not P2X2 [51], receptor activation.

Nomenclature	P2X1	P2X2	P2X3	P2X4
HGNC, UniProt	<i>P2RX1</i> , P51575	<i>P2RX2</i> , Q9UBL9	<i>P2RX3</i> , P56373	<i>P2RX4</i> , Q99571
Agonists	αβ-meATP, BzATP, L-βγ-meATP	–	αβ-meATP, BzATP	–
Antagonists	TNP-ATP (pIC ₅₀ ~8.9) [342], <i>lp5l</i> (pIC ₅₀ ~8.5), NF023 (pIC ₅₀ ~6.7), NF449 (pIC ₅₀ ~6.3) [174]	–	TNP-ATP (pIC ₅₀ ~8.9) [342], AF353 (pIC ₅₀ ~8) [111], A317491 (pIC ₅₀ ~7.5) [157], RO3 (pIC ₅₀ ~7.5) [100]	–
Selective allosteric modulators	MRS 2219 (Positive) [154]	–	–	ivermectin (Positive) [181] – Rat

Nomenclature	P2X5	P2X6	P2X7
HGNC, UniProt	<i>P2RX5</i> , Q93086	<i>P2RX6</i> , O15547	<i>P2RX7</i> , Q99572
Antagonists	–	–	A804598 (pIC ₅₀ ~8), brilliant blue G (pIC ₅₀ ~8) [164], A839977 (pIC ₅₀ ~7.7) [81, 83, 137], A740003 (pIC ₅₀ 7.4) [138], decavanadate (pA ₂ = 7.4) (pA ₂ 7.4) [234], A438079 (pIC ₅₀ ~6.9) [81]
Selective allosteric modulators	–	–	chelerythrine (Negative) (pIC ₅₀ 5.2) [303], AZ11645373 (Negative) [232, 318], KN62 (Negative) [110, 303], ivermectin (Positive) [260]
Comments	–	–	Effects of the allosteric regulators at P2X7 receptors are species-dependent.

Comments: A317491 and RO3 also block the P2X2:P2X3 heteromultimer [100, 157]. NF449, A317491 and RO3 are more than 10-fold selective for P2X1 and P2X3 receptors, respectively. Agonists listed show selectivity within recombinant P2X receptors of ca. one order of magnitude. A804598, A839977, A740003 and

A438079 are at least 10-fold selective for P2X7 receptors and show similar affinity across human and rodent receptors [81, 83, 137]. Several P2X receptors (particularly P2X1 and P2X3) may be inhibited by desensitisation using stable agonists (e.g. αβ-meATP); suramin and PPADS are non-selective antagonists at rat and human P2X1-3,5

and hP2X4, but not rP2X4,6,7 [40], and can also inhibit ATPase activity [63]. *lp5l* is inactive at rP2X2, an antagonist at rP2X3 (pIC₅₀ 5.6) and enhances agonist responses at rP2X4 [183]. Antagonist potency of NF023 at recombinant P2X2, P2X3 and P2X5 is two orders of magnitude lower than that at P2X1 receptors [315]. The P2X7

receptor may be inhibited in a non-competitive manner by the protein kinase inhibitors **KN62** and **chelerythrine** [303], while the p38 MAP kinase inhibitor **GTP γ S** and the cyclic imide **AZ11645373** show a species-dependent non-competitive action [82, 232, 233, 318]. The

pH-sensitive dye used in culture media, phenol red, is also reported to inhibit P2X1 and P2X3 containing channels [184]. Some recombinant P2X receptors expressed to high density bind [³⁵S]ATP γ S and [³H] $\alpha\beta$ -meATP, although the latter can also bind to 5'-nucleotidase

[231]. [³H]A317491 and [³H]A804598 have been used as high affinity antagonist radioligands for P2X3 (and P2X2/3) and P2X7 receptors, respectively [83].

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Ryanodine receptor

Ligand-gated ion channels → Ryanodine receptor

Overview: The ryanodine receptors (RyRs) are found on intracellular Ca^{2+} storage/release organelles. The family of RyR genes encodes three highly related Ca^{2+} release channels: RyR1, RyR2 and RyR3, which assemble as large tetrameric structures. These RyR channels are ubiquitously expressed in many types of cells and participate in

a variety of important Ca^{2+} signaling phenomena (neurotransmission, secretion, etc.). In addition to the three mammalian isoforms described below, various nonmammalian isoforms of the ryanodine receptor have been identified [323]. The function of the ryanodine receptor channels may also be influenced by closely associated pro-

teins such as the tacrolimus (FK506)-binding protein, calmodulin [365], triadin, calsequestrin, junctin and sorcin, and by protein kinases and phosphatases.

	RyR1	RyR2	RyR3
Nomenclature	<i>RYR1</i> , P21817	<i>RYR2</i> , Q92736	<i>RYR3</i> , Q15413
HGNC, UniProt			
Functional Characteristics	Ca^{2+} : ($P_{\text{Ca}}/P_{\text{K}}$ 6) single-channel conductance: 90 pS (50mM Ca^{2+}), 770 pS (200 mM K^{+})	Ca^{2+} : ($P_{\text{Ca}}/P_{\text{K}}$ 6) single-channel conductance: 90 pS (50mM Ca^{2+}), 720 pS (210 mM K^{+})	Ca^{2+} : ($P_{\text{Ca}}/P_{\text{K}}$ 6) single-channel conductance: 140 pS (50mM Ca^{2+}), 777 pS (250 mM K^{+})
Endogenous activators	cytosolic ATP (endogenous; mM range), cytosolic Ca^{2+} (endogenous; μM range), luminal Ca^{2+} (endogenous)	cytosolic ATP (endogenous; mM range), cytosolic Ca^{2+} (endogenous; μM range), luminal Ca^{2+} (endogenous)	cytosolic ATP (endogenous; mM range), cytosolic Ca^{2+} (endogenous; μM range)
Activators	caffeine (pharmacological; mM range), ryanodine (pharmacological; nM - μM range), suramin (pharmacological; μM range)	caffeine (pharmacological; mM range), ryanodine (pharmacological; nM - μM range), suramin (pharmacological; μM range)	caffeine (pharmacological; mM range), ryanodine (pharmacological; nM - μM range)
Endogenous antagonists	cytosolic Ca^{2+} Concentration range: $>1 \times 10^{-4}\text{M}$, cytosolic Mg^{2+} (mM range)	cytosolic Ca^{2+} Concentration range: $>1 \times 10^{-3}\text{M}$, cytosolic Mg^{2+} (mM range)	cytosolic Ca^{2+} Concentration range: $>1 \times 10^{-3}\text{M}$, cytosolic Mg^{2+} (mM range)
Antagonists	dantrolene	–	dantrolene
Channel blockers	procaine , ruthenium red , ryanodine Concentration range: $>1 \times 10^{-4}\text{M}$	procaine , ruthenium red , ryanodine Concentration range: $>1 \times 10^{-4}\text{M}$	ruthenium red
Comments	RyR1 is also activated by depolarisation <i>via</i> DHP receptor, calmodulin at low cytosolic Ca^{2+} concentrations, CaM kinase and PKA; antagonised by calmodulin at high cytosolic Ca^{2+} concentrations	RyR2 is also activated by CaM kinase and PKA; antagonised by calmodulin at high cytosolic Ca^{2+} concentrations	RyR3 is also activated by calmodulin at low cytosolic Ca^{2+} concentrations; antagonised by calmodulin at high cytosolic Ca^{2+} concentrations

Comments: The modulators of channel function included in this table are those most commonly used to identify ryanodine-sensitive Ca^{2+} release pathways. Numerous other modulators of ryanodine receptor/channel function can be found in the reviews listed below. The absence of a modulator of a particular isoform of receptor indicates that the action of that modulator has not been determined, not that it is without effect. The potential role of cyclic ADP ribose as an endogenous regulator of ryanodine receptor channels is controversial. A region of RyR likely to be involved in ion translocation and selection has been identified [107, 381].

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ZAC

Ligand-gated ion channels → ZAC

Overview: The zinc-activated channel (ZAC, **nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee for the Zinc Activated Channel**) is a member of the Cys-loop family that includes the nicotinic acetylcholine, 5-HT₃, GABA_A and strychnine-sensitive glycine receptors [69, 143]. The channel is likely to exist as a homopentamer of 4TM subunits that form an intrinsic cation selective channel displaying constitutive activity that can be blocked by [tubocurarine](#). ZAC is present in the human, chimpanzee, dog, cow and opossum genomes, but is functionally absent from mouse, or rat, genomes [69, 143].

Nomenclature	ZAC
HGNC, UniProt	ZACN, Q401N2
Functional Characteristics	Outwardly rectifying current (both constitutive and evoked by Zn ²⁺)
Endogenous agonists	Zn²⁺ (Selective) (pEC ₅₀ 3.3) [69]
Selective antagonists	tubocurarine (pIC ₅₀ 5.2) [69]
Comments	Although tabulated as an antagonist, it is possible that tubocurarine acts as a channel blocker.

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